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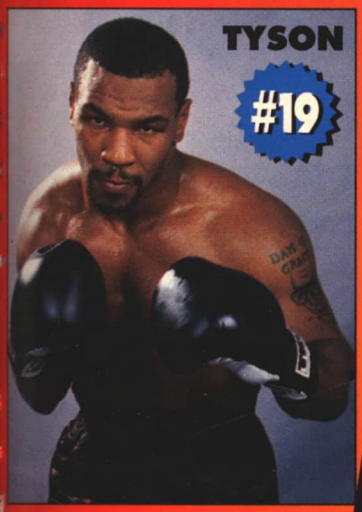

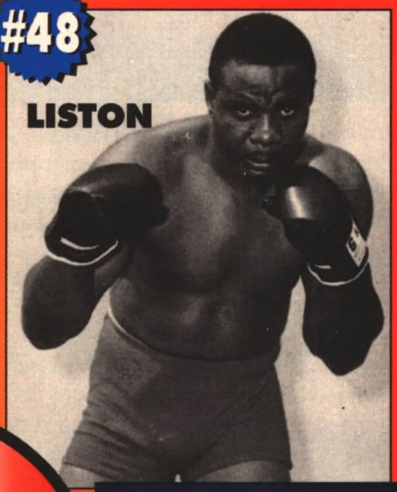

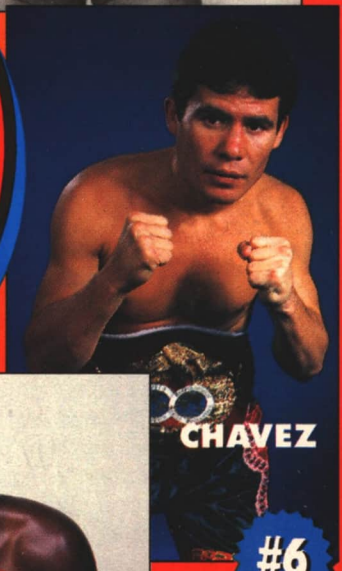

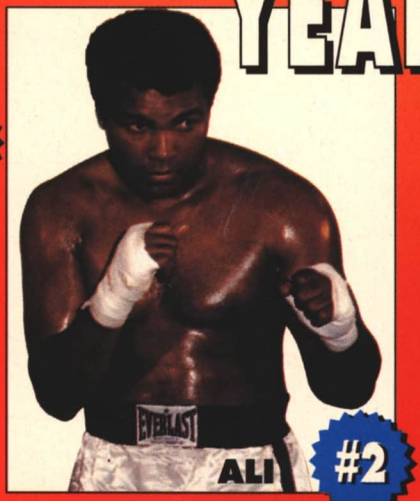

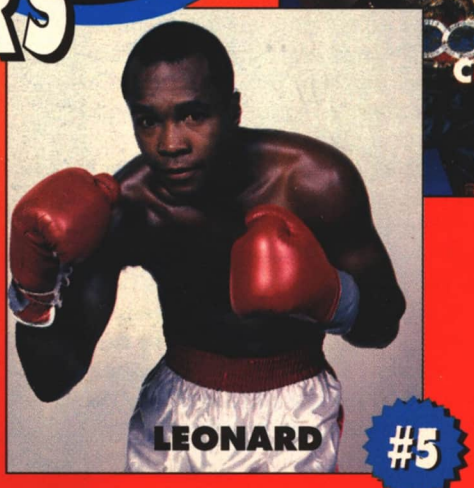

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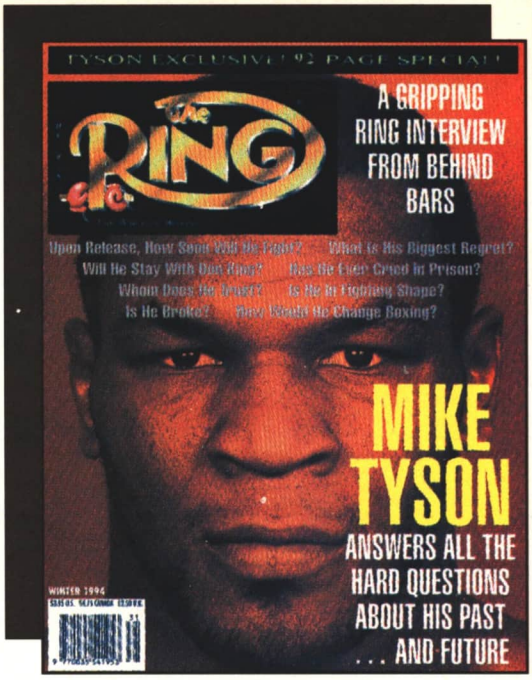

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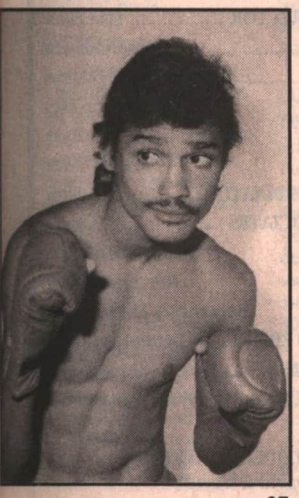

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Photo by Tom Hogan

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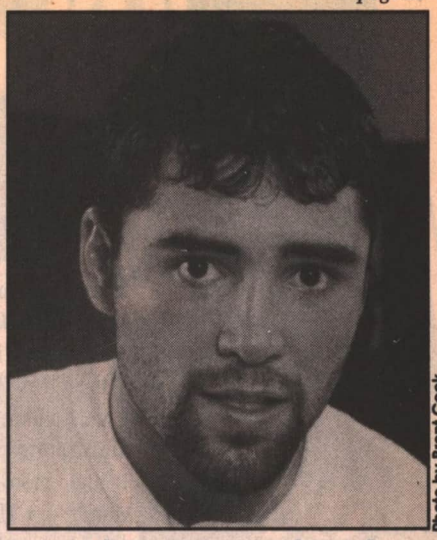

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RINGSIDE

Tommy Morrison isn't a hero, but let's hope he becomes a symbol. *(See "Round One.")* Every boxer in every state and in every country needs to be tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. It doesn't matter that there are no known cases of one fighter infecting another. Administrators can't pretend to be concerned with ring safety and ignore this pressing need.

Mandatory HIV testing, of course, isn't a panacea. What about sparring partners who, working round after round and day after day, are paid to bleed? Some are amateurs, and others are inactive or retired pros. Who's going to test them? What about cornermen and ringside doctors and referees and judges and even TV announcers and boxing writers and photographers? Anyone who's been ringside knows how often blood is sprayed. Who's going to test *them?* And what about the right to privacy? How do we measure civil liberties against common sense? There are no easy answers, but these issues need to at least be addressed. And not just until Morrison fades from the news.

It's unlikely Tommy Morrison contracted HIV during a fight, so don't allow anyone to suggest this was another black eye for boxing. But it could turn out to be much worse than that if the sport doesn't start looking out for its own.

Look for more on boxing and HIV in next month's issue.

***

As I walked through the doors of the overcrowded, flower-filled Festa Funeral Home in Totowa, New Jersey, I realized how long I've been involved in boxing. The thought came to me because I knew Dan Duva when he was still small-time, promoting clubshows at Ice World. Then I realized how long Duva, who died in January from complications related to a brain tumor (*see "Round One"*), had been part of the game. For the past 18 years, I've been *in* boxing. But Duva, the son of lifer Lou Duva, was *of* boxing.

Years ago, during a conversation with Kathy Duva, who was then a publicist for the promotional firm headed by her husband, I commented that those involved with Main Events seemed more *human* than their counterparts at Don King Productions and Top Rank. Kathy responded as if I had stated the obvious. If it was true, the reason was that even as Dan Duva became a millionaire businessman, he never forgot to be a family man. From hawking tickets at Ice World to shrewdly promoting the heavyweight champion of the world, the Duvas remained a tight clan. All hands were always on deck. They trusted each other, and as a result, Duva's fighters could trust their promoter.

I won't pretend that I was close with Dan. We never clashed, but over the years, we spoke less and less. Nonetheless, he was a man who earned his respect. Indeed, boxing seems a bit less *human* without him.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 75, No.6 June 1996

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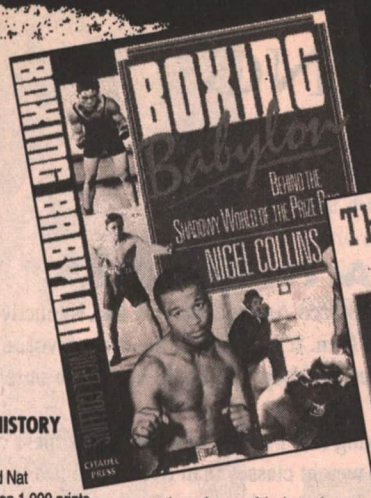

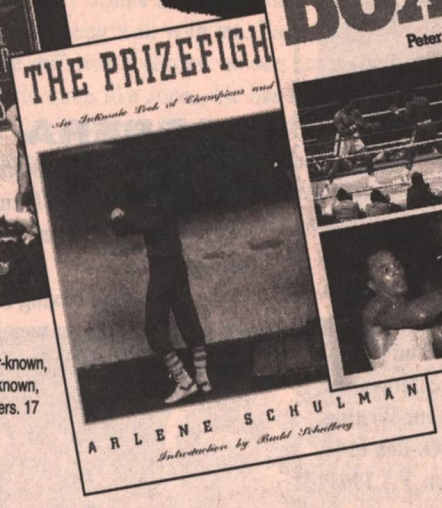

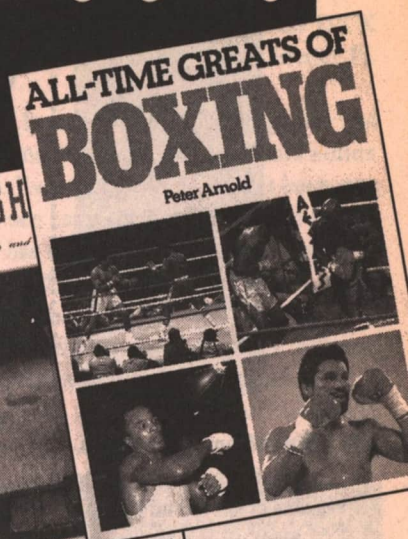

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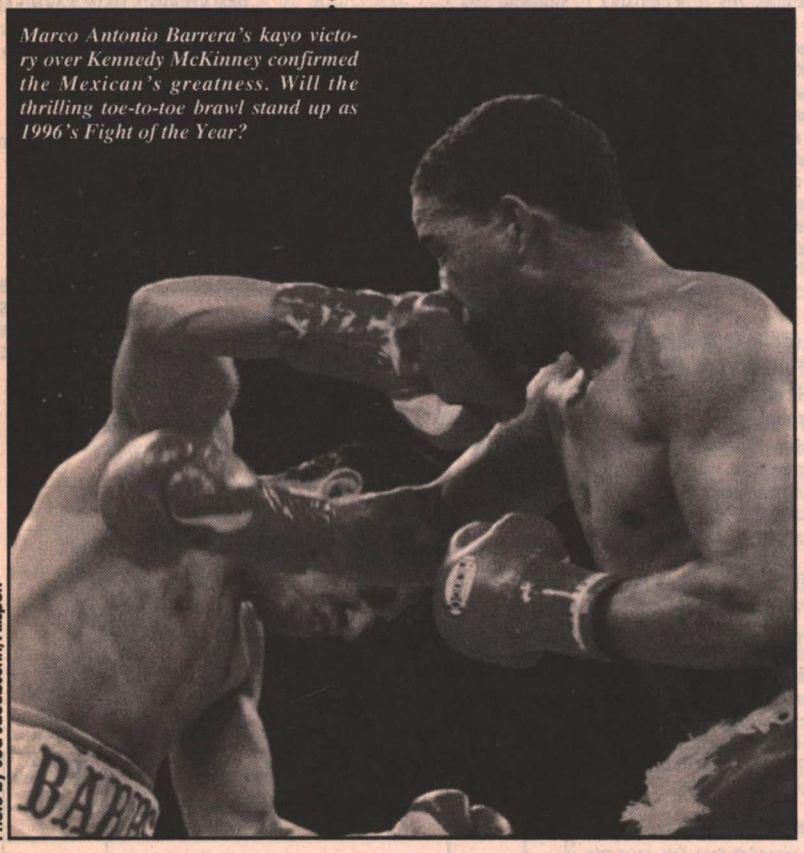
BARRERA THE GREAT

The bout between Marco Antonio Barrera and Kennedy McKinney was one of the most exciting matches I've ever seen. It's definitely the early favorite for Fight of the Year, and it's hard for me to imagine another matchup that could equal the unrelenting ferocity that these two fighters displayed.

As a longtime boxing fan, I would much rather witness competitive and interesting fights in the less publicized lower weight classes than overhyped heavyweight matches that often fail to live up to their billing. With boxing on the ropes, Barrera-McKinney provided a much-needed glimpse of the sport at its best.

DANIEL McKRELL
Parma, OH



Marco Antonio Barrera's kayo victory over Kennedy McKinney confirmed the Mexican's greatness. Will the thrilling toe-to-toe brawl stand up as 1996's Fight of the Year?

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

There are no longer any doubts in my mind about Marco Antonio Barrera. I thought Kennedy McKinney would be the only 122-pounder to lick him, but Barrera showed all of the qualities of a great fighter. He reached another level and is definitely the goods. But let's not forget about McKinney, who put up an outstanding effort. On that night, he would've beaten any other junior featherweight in the world, including the world champions.

MICHAEL WILSON JR.
Fort Mill, SC

A HEARTFELT THANKS

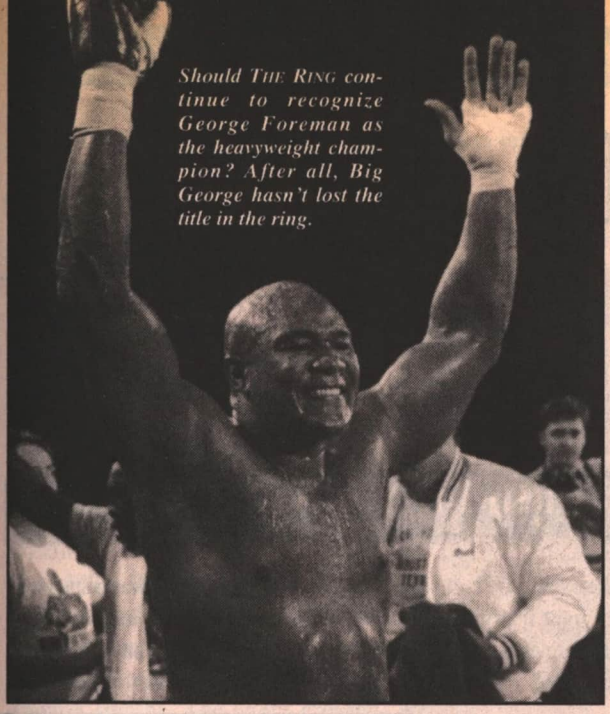
Thank you for printing the story on my son, former WBC super bantamweight champion Paul Banke that first ran in the *Los Angeles Times* ("The Dying Plea Of AIDS Victim Paul Banke: 'Please Remember Me In Your Prayers'"; February 1996).

Paul and I want to thank Tim Kawakami of the *Times*, as well as THE RING. It pleased Paul very much to see his story in the magazine that covers the sport he so dearly loves.

If my son's illness can help other fighters become aware of the pitfalls in gaining fame and glory before they're prepared to handle it, Paul's life will not be in vain.

I'm happy to report that today, Paul is healthy, on a spiritual high, maintaining his sense of humor, and fighting back with the heart of a champion. Most importantly, he is dedicating himself to carrying a message to youth about this deadly virus.

YOLANDA MIRANDA
Venice Beach, CA



Should THE RING continue to recognize George Foreman as the heavyweight champion? After all, Big George hasn't lost the title in the ring.

WHO'S THE CHAMP?

When THE RING was reborn in January 1990, Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood wrote an editorial regarding the policies of the magazine. I took for granted, even though it wasn't mentioned, that THE RING would follow its old principle that titles are won and lost in the ring.

Now I am not certain. Do you recognize George Foreman or don't you? Do you at all recognize champions? Or is whichever fighter you rank first your champion?

THE RING's longtime publisher and editor, Nat Fleischer, supported Muhammad Ali's claim to the title, even after "The Greatest" was stripped. Allow me to quote Fleischer's successor, Nat Loubet, who wrote in the June 1978 editorial, "THE RING magazine maintains that a champion wins and loses the crown in the ring, because he retires from active participation, or, due to physical disablement, can no longer compete."

I hope you clarify your principles.

AKE SINTRING
Laholm, Sweden

THE POUND-FOR-POUND DEBATE

Your March 1996 issue has confused me as to who should be the pound-for-pound best boxer and why. Reader Tony Hung wrote that, based on Pernell Whitaker's past performances, he was head and shoulders above Roy Jones. Does the mythical pound-for-pound title belong to the best fighter over the last two, three, five, or 10 years, or should it be awarded to the best fighter *today*? Whitaker clearly has fought more quality opponents than Jones, but the last one I can remember was Julio Cesar Chavez. Since then, he has fought mediocre opposition and looked good, but not great. Meanwhile, Jones has fought everyone alphabet soup politics has allowed, and he *has* looked great.

So which is it? If the pound-for-pound ratings are based on past performance, Pernell is still the man, and Kostya Tszyu doesn't belong on the list. However, if the ratings are to reflect the best today, Jones, Oscar De La Hoya, and Felix Trinidad should be at the top.

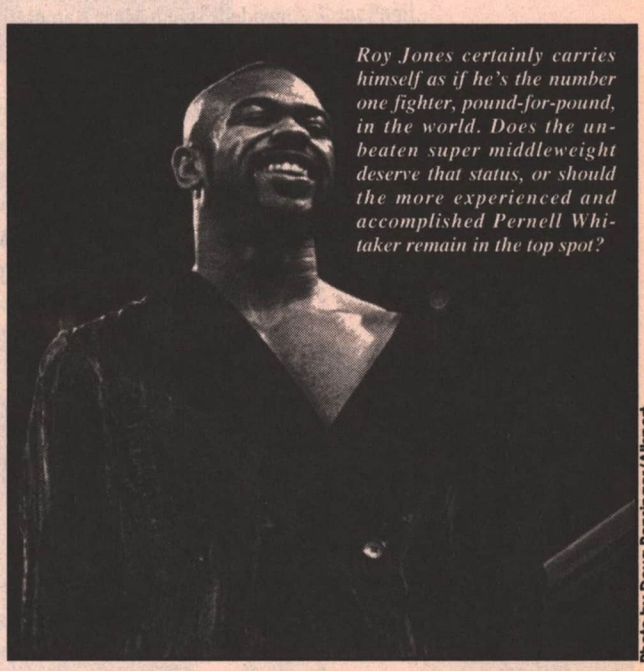
Let Whitaker fight Felix Trinidad. If he wins convincingly, he gets my vote. If not, it's time THE RING and many others quit reminiscing and get with the program.

JIM TUCK
Gulf Breeze, FL

Reader Tony Hung feels Pernell Whitaker should get the nod over Roy Jones in the pound-for-pound ratings. This notion doesn't hang well with me. Even though Whitaker has been atop four different divisions, no one has recently bedazzled the boxing world quite like Jones. He has not only thoroughly outclassed all of his opponents, he's destroyed them. The old-timers have begun comparing him to Sugar Ray Robinson.

"Sweet Pea" is also a great fighter, but with Jones' reflexes, speed, style, and *power*, he deserves the nod as boxing's best.

PAUL LAZZATI
Baltimore, MD



Roy Jones certainly carries himself as if he's the number one fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world. Does the unbeaten super middleweight deserve that status, or should the more experienced and accomplished Pernell Whitaker remain in the top spot?

Photo by Doug Pensinger/Allsport

After watching Roy Jones demolish Merqui Sosa inside of two rounds, I'm convinced he is not only the finest fighter in the world today, but he may one day be regarded as the greatest fighter of all-time. This may seem to be a very bold statement at this point in Jones' career, but consider that he thoroughly outclassed a superior ring technician in James Toney, delivered a vicious beating to the rugged and game Vinny Pazienza, and quickly dismantled Sosa, who your magazine recently named as the fighter with the best chin in boxing. Moreover, respectable boxers like Tony Thornton and Antoine Byrd were dispatched in short order as if they were rank amateurs.

The only thing that could prevent Jones from becoming a legend is a loss of focus and determination. At best, fighters with his combination of power, speed, and agility come along once in a generation.

DAVE SUAREZ
Jamaica, NY ■

ROUND ONE

"I THOUGHT I WAS BULLETPROOF... I'M NOT"

Eyebrows were raised on the afternoon of February 10 in Las Vegas, when it was announced that Tommy Morrison, scheduled to fight that night at the MGM Grand, had been medically suspended. When Marc Ratner, the executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission, described it as a worldwide suspension, and then added that Morrison had *not* been tested for steroids or drugs, there was no need to guess.

Morrison had tested HIV-positive. And when he was retested a couple of days later in his native Oklahoma, the results were the same.

Morrison is not the first world-class fighter to be linked to the HIV virus or AIDS. Esteban DeJesus died of AIDS; former 122-pound champion Paul Banke is living with the disease; and middleweight Lamar Parks and featherweight Ruben Palacio have tested HIV-positive.

It is the news of Morrison, however, that is likely to bring changes. HIV testing is mandatory only in Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, and Washington. As we went to press, several other states, including New York and New Jersey, were considering testing all fighters.

"All I'm talking about is common sense," said Floyd Patterson, chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission. "Does anybody object to this?"

The 27-year-old Morrison, a kayo loser to Lennox Lewis last October, was scheduled to face Arthur "Stormy" Weathers on the Felix Trinidad-Rodney Moore card. Having signed a contract with Don King, the hard-punching, soft-chinned heavyweight was being targeted for a showdown with Mike Tyson.

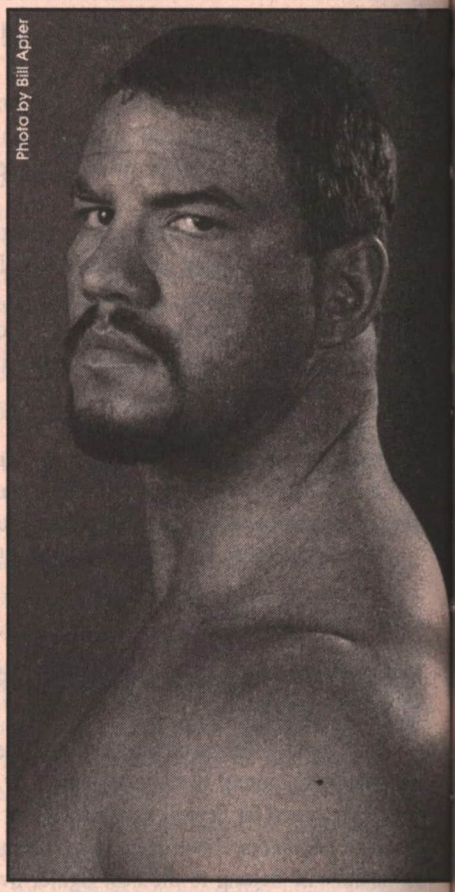


Photo by Bill Apter

At 27, Morrison's career is over

A one-time Toughman champion, Morrison is 45-3-1 (39). Before reaching contender status, he starred in 1990's *Rocky V*. In 1993, "The Duke," reported to be a distant relative of John Wayne, scored a 12-round points win over George Foreman. He also holds a win over Joe Hipp, and has lost by kayo to Ray Mercer and Michael Bentt.

"To all my young fans," Morrison said at a press conference, "I'd ask you no longer see me as a role model, but an individual that had the opportunity to be a role model and blew it—blew it with irresponsible, irrational, immature decisions, decisions that one day could cost me my life. I thought I was bulletproof. I'm not."

–Steve Farhood

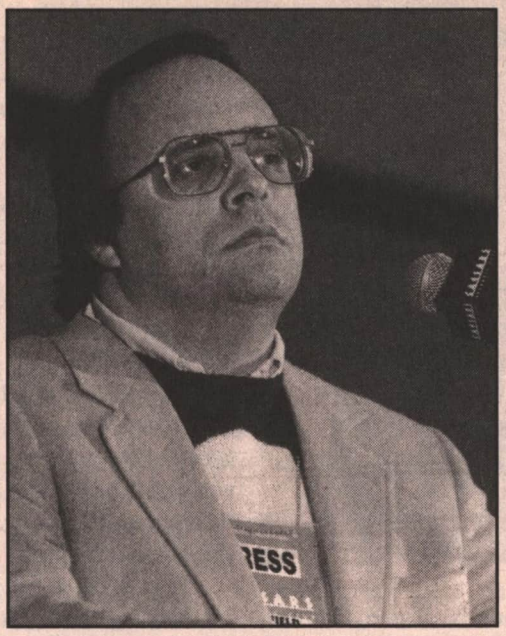
DAN DUVA, 1951-1996

Dan Duva, one of boxing's chief power-brokers for more than 15 years, died on January 30 from complications related to a brain tumor. He was 44.

Duva headed Main Events, a family-run promotional firm based in Totowa, New Jersey. Unlike rivals Don King and Bob Arum, he did not start by promoting world championship fights. In the late-'70s, Duva ran clubshows at Ice World, a small venue in Totowa. Among those he featured were future world champions Bobby Czyz, Vinny Pazienza, Livingstone Bramble, and Rocky Lockridge.

In 1981, Duva and partner Shelly Finkel jumped up in class by promoting the welterweight unification bout between Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns. The event grossed $40-million, setting pay-per-view and closed-circuit TV records.

Late in 1984, Duva all but ensured a decade's worth of success by signing several of the stars of the record-breaking U.S. Olympic team. Fighting under the promotional banner of Main Events, amateur stars like Mark Breland, Evander Holyfield, Pernell Whitaker, and Meldrick Taylor turned pro and grew into world champions. Holyfield and Whitaker continue to fight for Main Events; the former has grossed more than $110-million in purses, an all-time record, and the latter is considered by many to be the best fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world. Since 1977, Main Events has promoted more than 100 world title fights.



Duva: A promoter who made it the hard way

Duva was a graduate of Rutgers University and Seton Hall School of Law. He is survived by his wife Kathy, daughters Lisa and Nicole, son Bryan, father Lou, brother Dino, and sisters Donna Brooks, Deanne Boorman, and Denise MacPhail.

The family has asked that any donations in Duva's honor be made to Neuro-Oncology Research Fund, Department of Neurology, Columbia University, 710 West 168th Street, Room 204, New York, NY 10032 (attention Peggy Foner).

–Steve Farhood

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

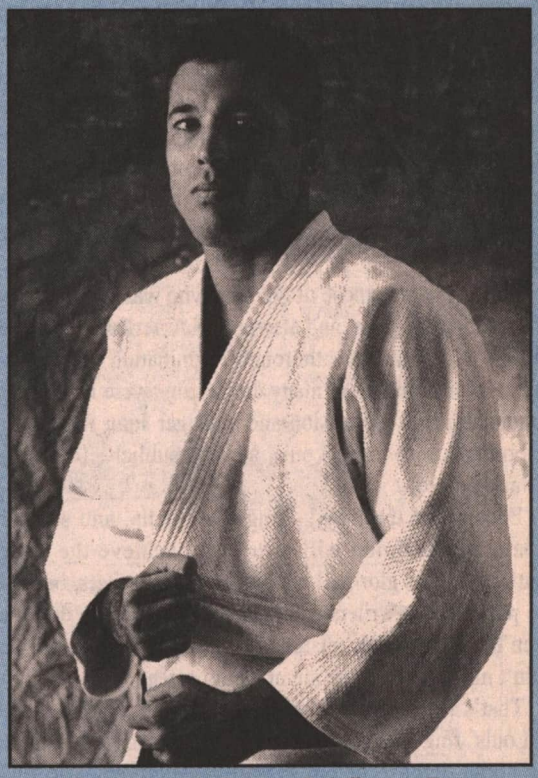
Even as Mike Tyson attempts to regain his status as baddest man on the planet, he is being challenged to prove he's the world's best fighter. In the Spring 1996 issue of *Prime Health & Fitness*, three-time Ultimate Fighting Championship titlist Royce Gracie calls out "Iron Mike."

"To settle matters once and for all," the copy reads, "Royce Gracie formally challenges Mike Tyson, the most feared boxer of our time, to a fight to the finish, anyplace, anytime."

Fifty years ago, Brazil's Helio Gracie, Royce's father, challenged then-heavyweight champion Joe Louis to a no-holds-barred battle. Louis declined. Tyson, we're sure, will do likewise, unless, perhaps, Gracie agrees to first don the gloves and square off under the rules of the prize ring.

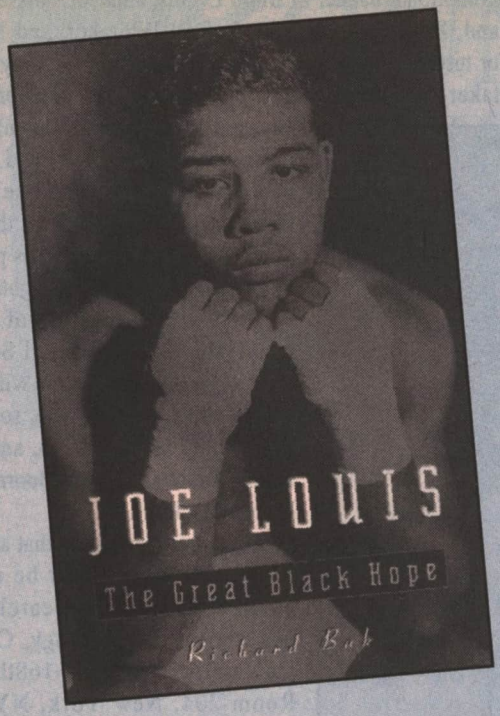
And if that happens, we'll write our own copy: "Say Goodnight, Gracie."

–Steve Farhood



Gracie issues the "ultimate" challenge to Tyson

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



As I write this, Tommy Morrison is all over the tube lamenting the "promiscuous" lifestyle that apparently led to his HIV-positive status.

Thank God AIDS didn't exist during the sexual prime of Joe Louis, which, according to a new biography, *Joe Louis: The Great Black Hope* (Taylor Publishing, $21.95) by Richard Bak, lasted much longer than the 12 years "The Brown Bomber" reigned as heavyweight champion.

To Louis, who had a secretary whose job it was to mail rent checks to the various mistresses the fighter had holed up around the country, "sex was as elemental as oxygen." So writes Bak in this revealing, touching, and very satisfying book that belongs in the championship section of your boxing library.

This is not an expose of the man who was one of the greatest boxers of all-time, and also one of America's most shining cultural symbols, but a thorough examination of the life and career of an icon whose many dimensions were masked by his famous deadpan expression and manager John Roxborough's determination to make Louis, at least publicly, the antithesis of Jack Johnson.

Because of the way boxing, the media, and society are today, no champion will ever again achieve the status of Louis, who was glorified not just by sportswriters, but also by the popular songwriters and poets of his time. He deserved it, even though, as Bak relates, as a husband and parent, Louis didn't make it out of the stumblebum category.

That's where cynical boxing writers still pigeonhole many of Louis' ring foes. Something else praiseworthy about Bak is his noble defense of the so-called "Bums Of The Month" mowed down during Louis' title reign.

" ... To call these fighters bums is to do them a great disservice," Bak says. "True, they weren't in Joe's league. Then again, who was during his prime?"

That they stood no chance against Louis, Bak handles with graceful eloquence, as when he writes that Al McCoy, one of seven opponents in as many months for Louis in the early-'40s, "was the first to be handed a blindfold and a cigarette."

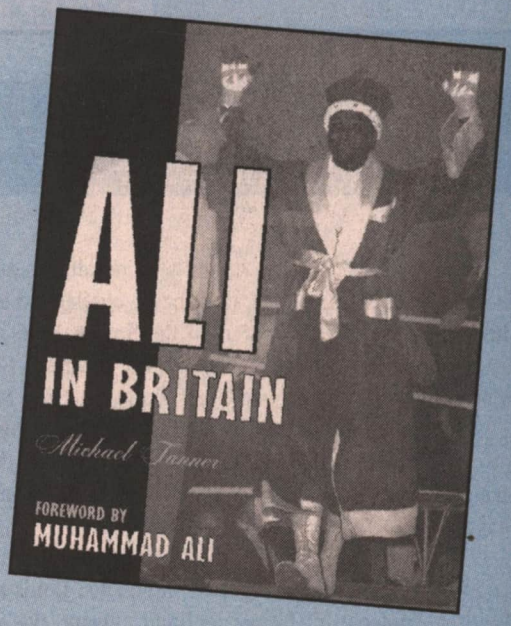
Put this one next to the Michael Isenberg bio of John L. Sullivan, Randy Roberts' treatment of Jack Dempsey, and the Everett Skehan book on Rocky Marciano. Isn't it a pity that all of our legendary heavyweight champions haven't received such an even-handed and penetrating going-over in print.

–Pete Ehrmann

***

If a measure of a boxer's popularity is the number of books that have been written about him, then Muhammad Ali is indeed the greatest of all-time. The latest addition to the vast Ali library is *Ali In Britain* by Michael Tanner (Mainstream Publishing, $35), an engaging look at Ali's 30-year love affair with the British people.

The strength of this generously illustrated volume lies in the charming depiction of the close personal relationships Ali has formed with some of the ordinary people he's encountered in the U.K. The most colorful of these individuals is Paddy

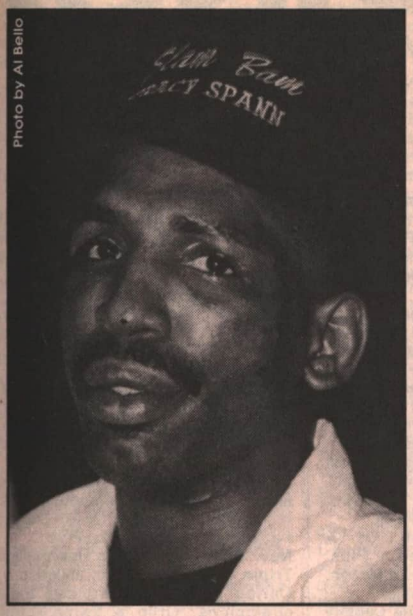


Monaghan, the feisty hod-carrier from Abington who waged a one-man campaign in support of Ali when he was stripped of the heavyweight title for refusing induction into the U.S. Armed Forces.

While perhaps a bit too specialized for casual Ali fans, Tanner's book is welcome supplement to the rich archives of Ali lore.

–Nigel Collins

OUTSIDE THE ROPES



Spann: A return to the ring wars

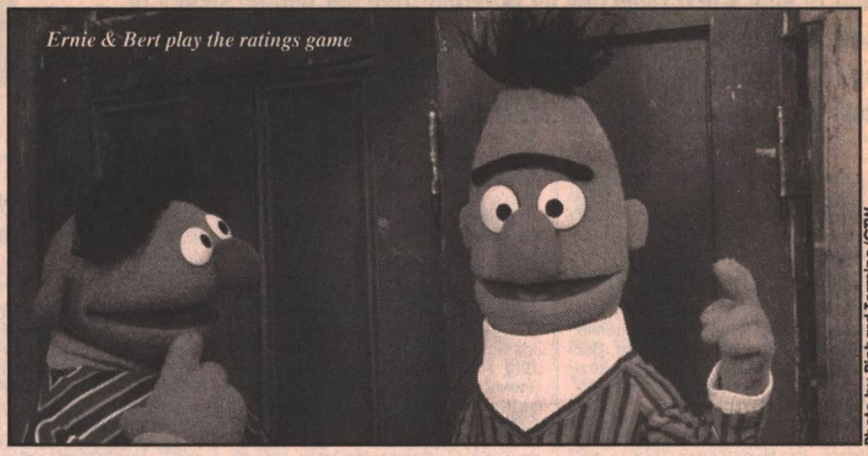
Heavyweight **Henry Tillman**, a 1984 Olympic gold medalist, was sentenced to 16 months in a California prison for using a fake credit card at a casino ... **Mike Mortimer**, president of the South Africa Boxing Control Commission, died in Durban after suffering an aneurism. The universally respected administrator was 63 ... Longtime amateur boxing official **Bob Surkein** died at age 78 ... WBC welterweight champion **Pernell Whitaker** was arrested and briefly jailed after scuffling with three off-duty police officers during a party for the NBA's All-Star weekend in San Antonio. He was booked on misdemeanor charges of resisting arrest and assaulting an officer ... Former lightweight contender **Tracy Spann**, 32, is returning to the ring as a welterweight. Spann hasn't fought in 2½ years.

THE PUNCHLINE

"I believe [Mike] Tyson could probably whip me. But I don't think he believes it. And until he does, he'll never fight me."

–Former heavyweight champion George Foreman

THE 10 ALPHABET ORGANIZATIONS THAT WILL LEAD BOXING INTO THE 21st CENTURY



10. PBS: Only characters from *Sesame Street* are ranked. Oscar the Grouch's mandatory is the Cookie Monster, but only if Bert & Ernie accept step-aside fees.

9. TWA: Fighters are ranked by their Frequent Flyer miles. If you've flown Delta, you're disqualified.

8. HMO: We hear the ringside physicians aren't the best.

7. NFL: Ratings Chairman Charlie Powell's top 10 includes Mark Gastineau, Alonzo Highsmith, Adrian White, and the comebacking—and still unbeaten—Ed "Too Tall" Jones.

6. KFC: Features a division for white meat only (Andrew Golota, Alexandr Zolkin, Lou Savarese, Frans Botha, Axel Schulz).

5. DKP: Formerly the WBC.

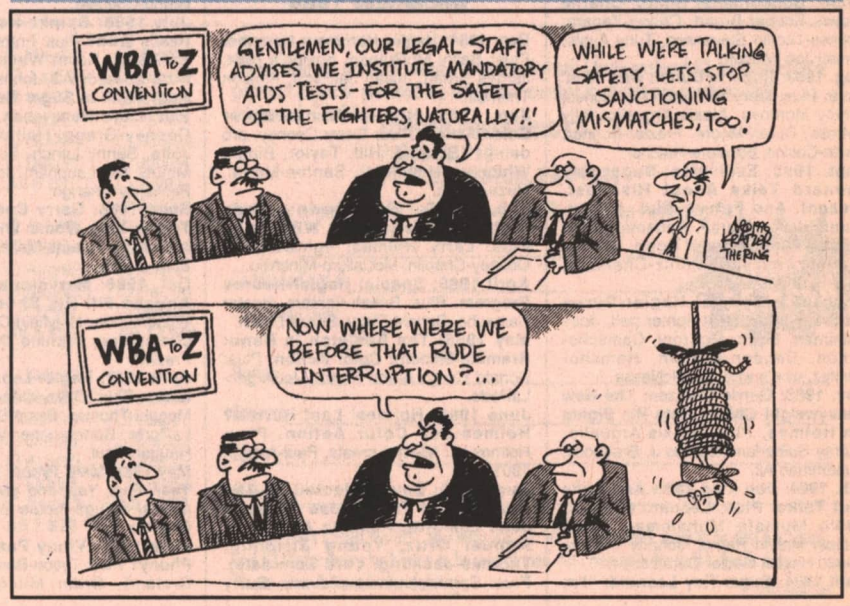
4. FCC: First move was to fine George Foreman for repeated abuse of the airwaves

3. TNT: Tony Tucker rated first, Tony Tucker rated second, Tony Tucker rated third, Tony ...

2. AMA: Required are 36-ounce gloves, titanium headgear, and full-body armor suits. And that's just for the ringside physicians!

1. MGM: Adds boxing's 18th division, munchkinweight, and names Thailand's Toto Pow Phongsawang first champion.

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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Oct. 1981: Holmes-Cooney: Is It Is Or Is It Ain't? Plus: Best Fighter, hard-hitting heavyweights, who's who in each division, Donald Curry, Spinks-Muhammad, Chandler-Solis, Snipes-Coetzee, boxing on TV, Rocky Graziano, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Feb. 1982: Special Holmes-Cooney Program Section. Plus: Irish boxers, Sean O'Grady, Ali, Pedroza-Ballas, Braxton-Muhammad, Pedroza-Sibaca, Sanchez-Cowdell, Best of The Ring Anthology.

Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

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April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Carlos Monzon, Bob Foster, Charley Burley, Scypion-Fletcher, Mayweather-Serrano, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Paddy Flood, Bonecrusher Smith, Charlie Brown, Frazier-Broad, Chang-Zapata, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson, Tony Ayala, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One 'Mas' Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

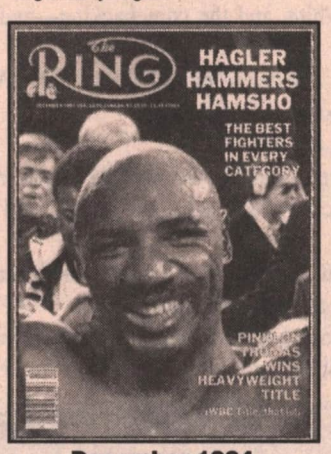
April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ring's ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.



December 1984

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: All Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

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June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar

Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

June 1993: Riddick Bowe: The Man, By LeRoy Nieman. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Ireland, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, Toney-Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Nieman (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

Dec. 1993: What If Mike Tyson Had Never Gone To Jail? Plus: Freddie Pendleton, Michael Moorer & Tommy Morrison, Willie Pep, Ed Dunkhorst, All-Time Top 10: Cuba, Tyson-Spinks (color).

Jan. 1994: Was Pernell Whitaker Robbed In San Antonio? Plus: Azumah Nelson, Willis Britt, State of the Game.

Feb. 1994: The British Are Coming! Does America Have Anything To Worry About? Plus: Felix Trinidad, Junior Jones, fight clubs (part I), Toney-Hearns.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Sept. 1994 (92-Page Special): How Michael Moorer Defeated Evander Holyfield, By Teddy Atlas! Plus: Chavez-Randall II, Lennox Lewis, Mando Ramos, all-time greatest cards, What If ... Duran vs. Arguello, All-Time Top 10: Scotland.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Winter 1994 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson: An Exclusive Interview From Behind Bars. Plus: Best of the last 100 years, Jones-Toney preview, Injuries (part III), Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Jack Sharkey, What If ... Galindez-Conteh.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But THE RING Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

April 1995: Roy Jones—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Ex-champs Moorer, Holyfield, Lewis, & Bowe, Chavez-Lopez & Castro-Jackson, Olzubek-Gamache, What If ... Chandler-Pintor.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

☐ Apr/80	☐ Oct/84	☐ Sep/86	☐ Oct/88	☐ May/91	☐ Jan/94
	☐ Dec/84	☐ Oct/86	☐ Nov/88	☐ Jun/91	☐ Feb/94
☐ Aug/81	**All 7 $28**	**All 10 $37**	**All 10 $37**	☐ Jul/91	☐ Mar/94
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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended March 1, 1996

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

Tim Witherspoon
Heavyweight

William Guthrie
Light Heavyweight

Juan Coggi
Junior Welterweight

Shane Mosley
Lightweight

Luisito Espinosa
Featherweight

Wayne McCullough
Bantamweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **RIDDICK BOWE** Fort Washington, MD *38-1*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *28-1*
3. **MIKE TYSON** Southington, OH *43-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *36-1*
5. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Atlanta, GA *32-3*
6. **BRUCE SELDON** Atlantic City, NJ *33-3 (WBA Champ)*
7. **FRANK BRUNO** England *41-4 (WBC Champ)*
8. **ALEXANDR ZOLKIN** Westerville, OH *24-2*
9. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA *44-4*
10. **OLIVER McCALL** Chicago, IL *27-6*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *26-4 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** Spring Valley, NY *27-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *25-3-2*
4. **ANACLET WAMBA** France *45-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *19-1-1*
6. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *49-2-2*
7. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *12-0*
8. **THOMAS HEARNS** Detroit, MI *55-4-1*
9. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *32-1*
10. **ALEXANDER GUROV** Ukraine *16-1-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **HENRY MASKE** Germany *28-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *41-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *33-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *20-0*
5. **MERQUI SOSA** New York, NY *26-5-2*
6. **MIKE McCALLUM** Brooklyn, NY *48-3-1*
7. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *29-0*
8. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *20-0*
9. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *35-4*
10. **LOUIS DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *22-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *31-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** England *42-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *31-3*
4. **FRANK LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *28-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **TIM LITTLES** Flint, MI *26-1*
6. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *40-6*
7. **BRYANT BRANNON** Trenton, NJ *16-0*
8. **HENRY WHARTON** England *23-2-1*
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *48-3*
10. **RAY CLOSE** N. Ireland *21-3-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **QUINCY TAYLOR** Dallas, TX *26-3 (WBC Champ)*
2. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *28-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **SHINJI TAKEHARA** Japan *24-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina *98-5-2*
5. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** Seattle, WA *34-1*
6. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *35-5-1*
7. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *27-0*
8. **JOE LIPSEY** Lansing, MI *25-0*
9. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *23-0*
10. **JULIAN JACKSON** Virgin Islands *51-4*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *43-6 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *56-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *27-1*
4. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *35-2*
5. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *63-1*
6. **ANDREW COUNCIL**
   Lanham, MD *24-3-3*
7. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *30-2*
8. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *33-1*
9. **KEITH HOLMES**
   Washington, D.C. *27-1*
10. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
    Houston, TX *22-0*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *37-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *28-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *31-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *37-1*
5. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland *31-1*
6. **DERRELL COLEY**
   Capitol Heights, MD *28-1-2*
7. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *22-0-1*
8. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *33-1*
9. **EAMONN LOUGHRAN**
   Ireland *26-1-1*
10. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
    Orlando, FL *57-3*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *16-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *52-4-1*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *96-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *21-0*
5. **FRED PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *40-20-4*
6. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *39-0*
7. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina *70-3-2 (WBA Champ)*
8. **SAMMY FUENTES**
   Hermosa Beach, CA *33-13-1*
9. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *35-3*
10. **KHALID RAHILOU**
    France *25-2*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *22-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *18-0*
3. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *28-1*
4. **PHILIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
5. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *19-0*
6. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *25-1-1*
7. **LAMAR MURPHY**
   Miami, FL *18-1*
8. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *38-4*
9. **ANTONIO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *34-9-2*
10. **JEAN BAPTISTE MENDY**
    France *48-5-2*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *38-3-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *22-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *32-1-1*
4. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *54-4-1*
5. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *41-3*
6. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX *30-2-2*
7. **REGGIE TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY *40-3-1*
8. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *23-0*
9. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *19-0-3 (WBA Champ)*
10. **JEFF FENECH**
    Australia *27-2-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *41-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Japan *37-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *51-7*
4. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *37-3*
5. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *20-0*
6. **ELOY ROJAS**
   Venezuela *33-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
7. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *30-1*
8. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *15-3*
9. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *44-1-2*
10. **MIGUEL ARROZAL**
    Portland, OR *25-6*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *40-0*
2. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *29-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *28-2-1*
4. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *23-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *51-7-3 (WBC Champ)*
6. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *42-2-1*
7. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *36-2*
8. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ**
   New York, NY *32-3-3*
9. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *21-0*
10. **JUNIOR JONES**
    Brooklyn, NY *38-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *18-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *36-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *18-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ANCEE GEDEON**
   Westminster, CA *14-7-1*
5. **ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *30-1*
6. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan *12-2-1*
7. **DANIEL JIMENEZ**
   Puerto Rico *21-4-1*
8. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *4-1*
9. **DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM**
   Thailand *56-5-1*
10. **PAULIE AYALA**
    Ft. Worth, TX *17-0*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *18-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *33-0-2*
3. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *25-1*
4. **ALIMI GOITIA**
   Venezuela *14-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *39-6-1 (IBF Champ)*
6. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *20-0*
7. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela *21-2*
8. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan *20-0*
9. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *30-1-1*
10. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
    South Korea *19-6*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *28-1*
3. **SAEN SOW PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *24-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *30-3-2*
5. **ENRIQUE OROZCO**
   Mexico *30-4-1*
6. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM**
   Thailand *21-1*
7. **CHOKCHAI 3-K BATTERY**
   Thailand *29-1*
8. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *31-2*
9. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA *41-5-1*
10. **DANIEL WARD**
    South Africa *24-6*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *28-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-3*
3. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *30-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *38-2*
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *45-4-4*
6. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-2*
7. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela *29-4-1*
8. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
   Jasper, TN *16-2*
9. **MANUEL JESUS HERRERA**
   Dominican Republic *16-4-1*
10. **SHIRO YAHIRO**
    Japan *22-2-1*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Super Middleweight
3. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Junior Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Junior Featherweight
6. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
7. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Flyweight
8. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
9. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Heavyweight
10. **TERRY NORRIS**
    Junior Middleweight

RYAN OUT LOUD

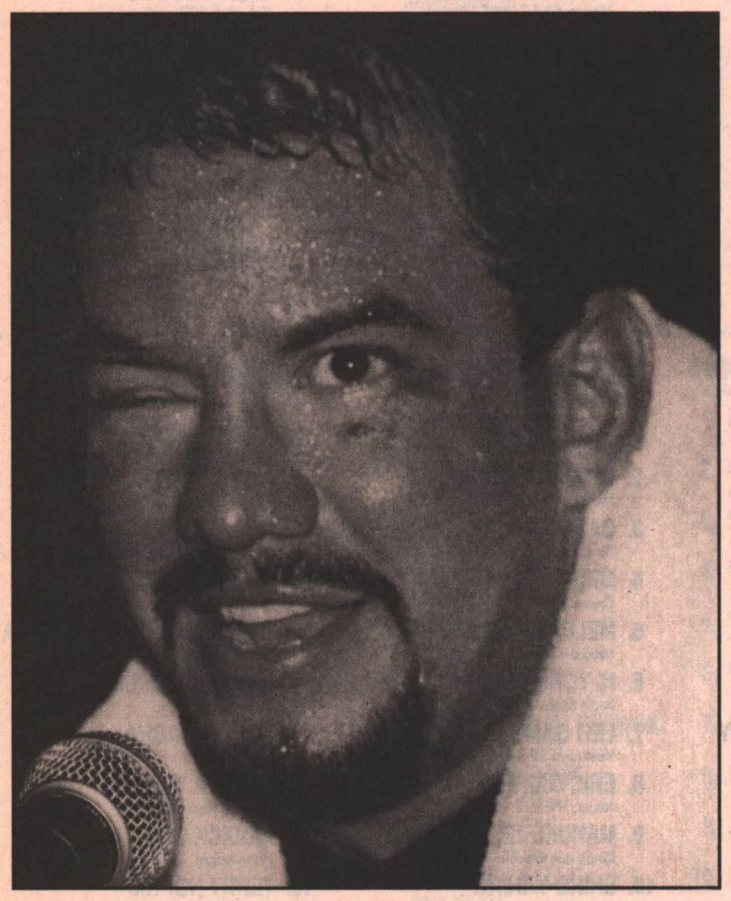
By Jeff Ryan

FOREVER TWO STEPS BEHIND

Nobody was going to consider AIDS a problem in boxing as long as it was affecting a Ruben Palacio or Paul Banke. HIV was going to have to invade the bloodstream of someone mainstream before the people running the industry would pay attention. Incredibly, in a sport that has always boasted a large number of devil-may-care attitudes within its ranks, a sport that spills more blood than any other, AIDS was always an afterthought. A problem that might have to be dealt with *someday*.

Well, when a bewildered but brave Tommy Morrison stood at a podium in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and told the youth of America that he made a mistake that may cost him his life, someday had arrived like a left hook to the temple. But it was a telegraphed shot if there ever was one. The news that "The Duke" had tested positive for HIV before a meaningless tuneup bout in Las Vegas was as infuriating as it was heartbreaking. To those of us in the business, though, it wasn't shocking.

Anyone who knows boxers well knew this kind of tragedy was always lurking just around the corner. It may have been a bit surprising that the first well-known boxing victim was Morrison. Even though he had a reputation as a partier and a ladies man, to be honest, there were two or three other name fighters I had always feared would be making this same kind of teary announcement one day.

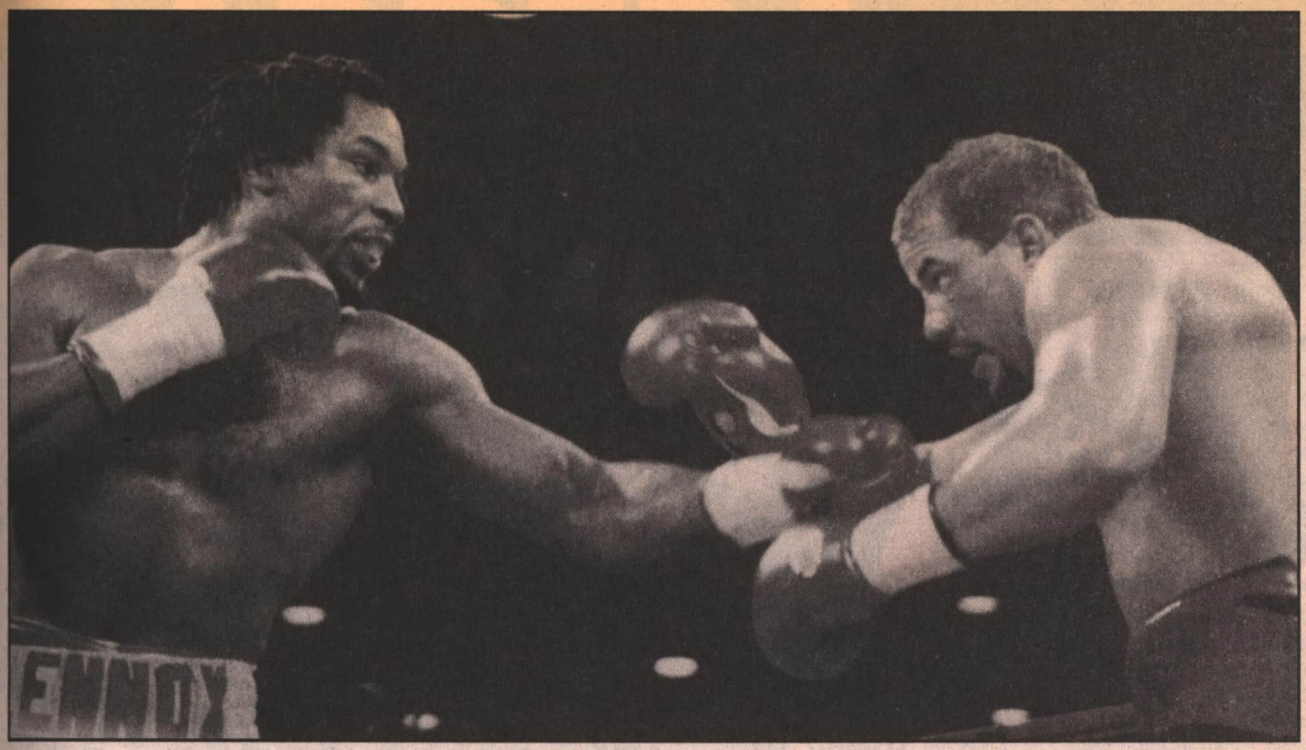


Now that Tommy Morrison has tested positive for HIV, the boxing world is finally having to deal with the issue. Morrison shed his share of blood in his 49 fights.

As a group, fighters are risk-takers, and conversations with dozens of them through the years have shown me that the risk-taking isn't confined to their jobs. Many drive recklessly or hang around with the wrong kinds of people in the wrong kinds of places. And many have very promiscuous lifestyles. In some cases, guys who are considered to be "brilliant" fighters inside the ring don't have the common sense to protect themselves at all times in the bedroom.

That is why it is the job of boxing to protect potential opponents from anyone who may be carrying HIV. At the time that Morrison tested positive, only Nevada, Arizona, Washington, and Oregon subjected fighters to mandatory AIDS testing. For years, other states, such as New Jersey, have chosen not to test for AIDS but have instead been issuing cornermen and referees rubber gloves just in case they come in contact with an HIV-infected combatant's blood during a bout.

Idiotic? Of course it is. Instead of issuing those hand condoms, state athletic commissions and control boards should have been testing to assure that an HIV-positive fighter doesn't get anywhere near a ring in the first place. The reasons they haven't: cost (as much as $200 per test) and that old liberal rallying cry that this is a delicate issue of privacy. The American Civil Liberties Union tells us that forcing a fighter to be tested might violate his civil rights and jeopar-



Who knows what the odds are of passing the HIV virus on during a fight? Should Lennox Lewis, who knocked out Morrison in October 1995, be worried?

dize his right to earn a living. It's at times like this that the letters A-C-L-U can be as frightening as the ones A-I-D-S.

It may be a violation of one's rights to be ordered to take a drug test, but it is standard procedure following all world championship fights. Because of the unique nature of the sport and the serious implications that can arise from a situation in which a combatant is under the influence of a mind-altering substance, fighters give up that right to privacy when they sign for a title opportunity. For the good of all of the participants, that should also be the case when it comes to AIDS testing.

In the aftermath of Morrison's revelation, the airwaves have, not surprisingly, been bombarded with all sorts of odds concerning the risk of transmission during a fight. Spin the talkradio dial and you'll find that one doctor says 1-in-70-million, the next guy says 1-in-60-million, and someone else says we just don't have any idea at all. It has been suggested that the risk of contacting HIV in a fight is similar to the chances of winning the lottery or getting struck by lightning. Well, people do win the lottery and people do get struck by lightning. Happens every day.

I'm no doctor, and I don't intend to play one in this column. All I know is that HIV can be transmitted not just through open wounds, but through mucous membranes, such as the eyes and mouth. How many times have you seen a fighter who is cut paw at his bloodied gash, get blood on his gloves, then fire punches with the bloodied gloves at his opponent's face? An infinitesimal risk? How do we know for sure if no one has ever researched bouts involving HIV-positive fighters?

Establishing mandatory testing in all 50 states would provide peace of mind for everyone. If, in the next year or so, more high-profile fighters are found to have HIV, how is that going to affect the ring performances of guys in states where there is no testing? Might a fighter give less than his best effort if he sees that an opponent is cut? Might he be leery of wading in aggressively or fighting on the inside because he never knows if that blood he may come in contact with is contaminated?

It took the Morrison situation to bring to light just how ill-prepared boxing has been to deal with the AIDS crisis. Today, a fighter who tests HIV-positive in the privacy of his own personal physician's office can go off to fight in, say, Michigan or Tennessee and put other people at risk. New York has said it will begin testing and other states are examining the issue. It will be nothing short of a miracle if all of the key boxing states, let alone all 50 states, agree to start testing. But it is a policy that must be implemented in every state immediately. Who will pay? Let the promoters pay, deduct a percentage of a fighter's purse to defray costs, or let the promoters, fighters, and states split the tab.

And let's see the WBA, WBC, and IBF make HIV testing mandatory before all of their title fights worldwide. That won't prevent an HIV-infected fighter from traveling to Indonesia for a 10-rounder, perhaps, but it would at least do something about reducing the risk of AIDS transmission in those countries that, for one reason or another, have no interest in implementing testing policies.

Understand this: I haven't suddenly embraced the idea of HIV testing in light of Morrison's plight. For years, my writings have been calling for mandatory AIDS testing. That's because I have long been amazed by some of the suicidally care-free behavior fighters detailed to me in those moments when my tape recorder was off and my notebook was put away. Like many writers who speak with boxers about more than just their lives inside the ropes, I knew the danger of AIDS in boxing was very real.

There will never be a way to talk fighters into making love safely. Assuring that they can make war safely, however, is an obligation boxing must acknowledge it has. And fast. ■

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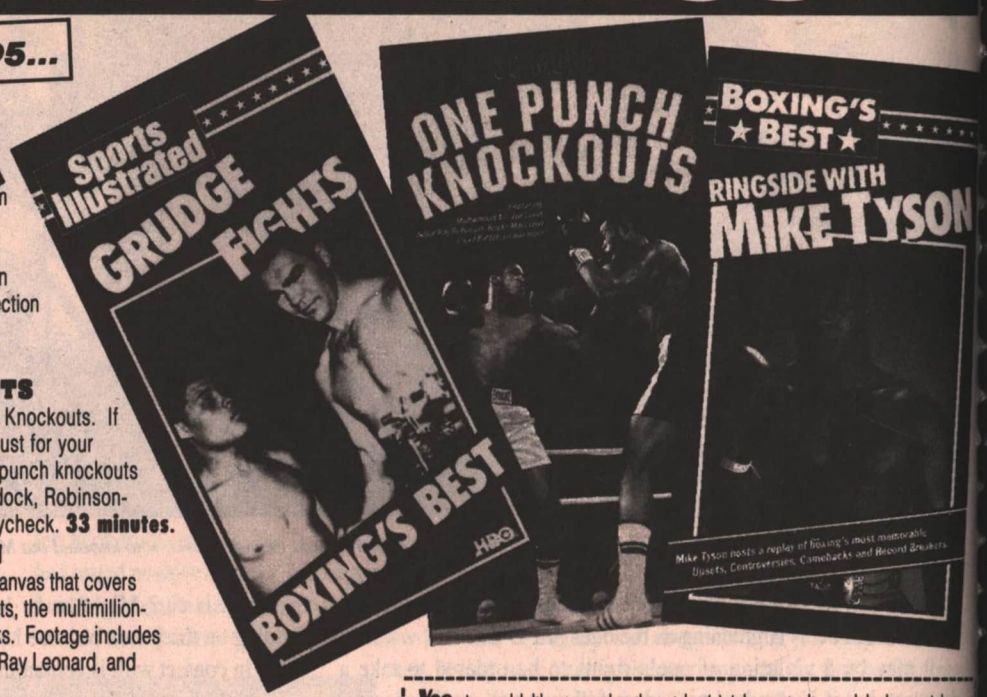

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Host Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll see challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. Jack Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene Tunney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that made him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

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Join Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds his own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown before him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

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BARRERA

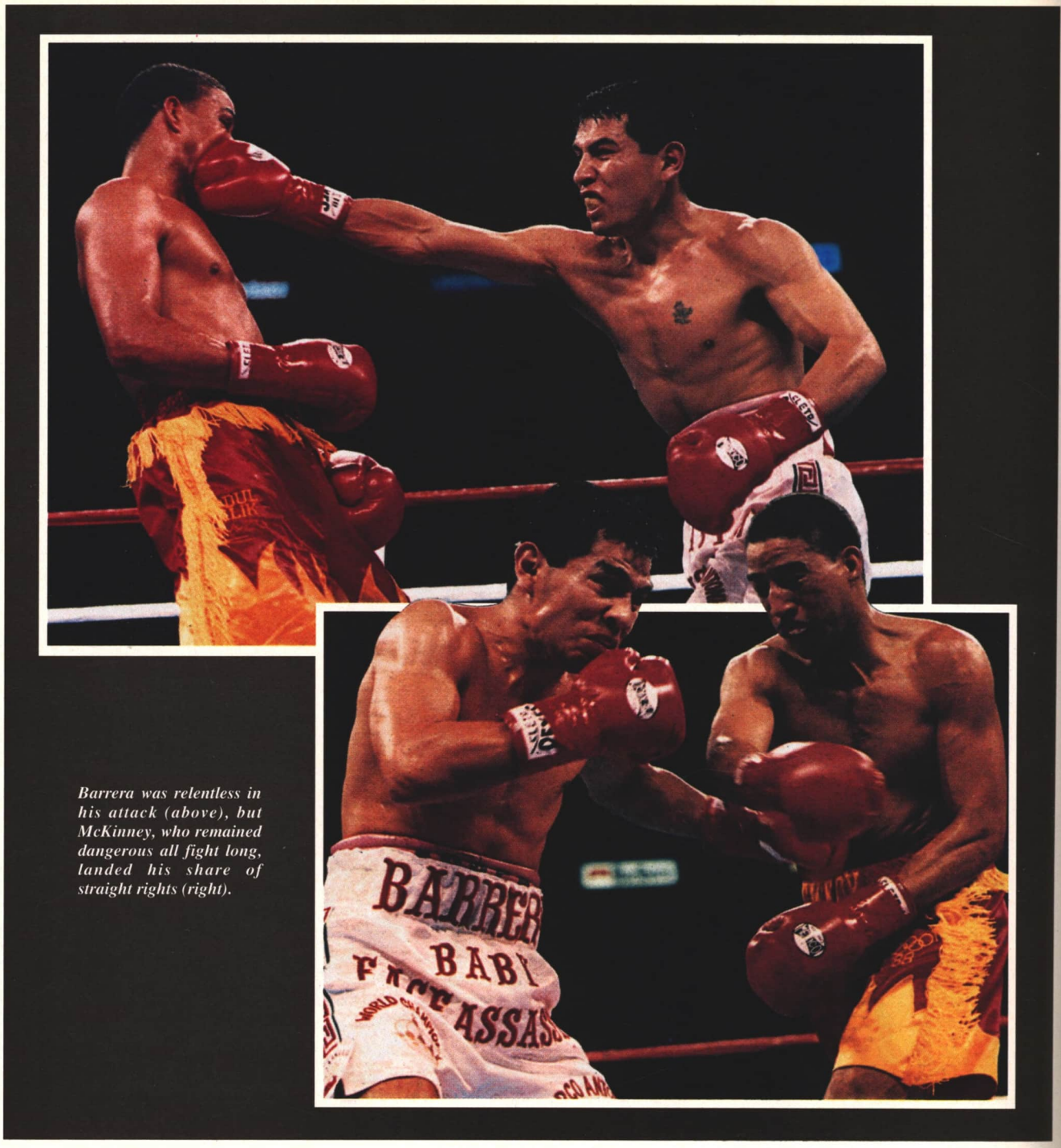
Photos by Holly Stein/HBO

STOPS McKINNEY

Greatness Confirmed

By Ivan G. Goldman

A great fight requires more than a matchup between two superbly talented fighters. To qualify as great, a fight requires both combatants to overcome terrible adversity, to reach down and give more than anyone could



Barrera was relentless in his attack (above), but McKinney, who remained dangerous all fight long, landed his share of straight rights (right).

expect—and perhaps more than most of us can even understand.

Consequently, whenever one of these rare, truly magnificent contests occurs, it always has a sad aspect to it: One fighter has to lose.

So it was with Kennedy McKinney on February 3. The gallant Olympic gold medalist and former IBF junior featherweight champion proved his exquisite talent and tremendous heart, and at the same time failed against Marco Antonio Barrera in one of the greatest fights in years.

By scoring a kayo at 2:05 of the 12th and final round before a raucous crowd of 7,912 at the Great Western Forum in Inglewood, California, Barrera, already a pound-for-pound entrant, raised his status to an even higher level. Improving to 40-0 (28), the 22-year-old junior featherweight had previously been regarded as an up-and-comer with superstar potential. Now, thanks largely to McKinney, Barrera has lived up to that potential, and never again will anyone be able to contend that he hasn't been adequately tested.

This was a fight with no clinches, no lulls, and no mercy. When they weren't throwing powerpunches, the 122-pounders were tossing teeth-rattling jabs. Before Barrera finally ended it with two right hands, he had scored four official knockdowns and had been floored once himself.

In a reverential pronouncement, the normally placid *Los Angeles Times* said the contest "ranks as one of the most excit-

ing fights in the 28-year history of the sport at the Forum" *(See sidebar.)* Indeed, it was impossible to watch this give-and-take fight and not know you were witnessing history in the making.

The bout was the headliner of HBO's new series, *Boxing After Dark*. The idea is to air quality bouts featuring not-quite-ready-for-prime-time players. With Barrera-McKinney, the network done good. Any fan who missed it should wangle a tape out of somebody. That said, it should be noted that this was not an even war. Barrera, who hit like a young Roberto Duran, won most of the rounds. Yet McKinney was always in the fight, landing vicious shots that seemed capable of putting him on top at any time. And though he was punished badly, McKinney, 28-2-1 (17), showed his championship heart by coming back to win the 10th and 11th rounds before finally giving out in the 12th.

(Continued on page 71)

GREAT FIGHTS AT THE GREAT WESTERN FORUM

Forum Boxing publicist John Beyrooty called the Marco Antonio Barrera-Kennedy McKinney fight "one of the greatest bouts" in the 28-year-history of the Forum." We'll go one step further and call it number one. Our choices for the Forum's all-time top 10 bouts:

Zaragoza and Banke have a history at the Forum

1. Marco Antonio Barrera KO 12 Kennedy McKinney, February 3, 1996: A brawl from the get-go, with several of the middle rounds featuring non-stop trading. McKinney, who suffers four knockdowns, scores one of his own and remains a threat until the very end.

2. Saman Sorjaturong KO 7 Chiquita Gonzalez, July 15, 1995: The Fight of the Year. The Thai challenger, his right eye closed and his body battered, rises from two knockdowns to shock defending WBC-IBF junior flyweight champion and pound-for-pound entrant Chiquita.

3. Alexis Arguello KO 13 Ruben Olivares, November 23, 1974: Legends at the crossroads. WBA featherweight champ Olivares is ahead on points when Arguello explodes with a hook in the 13th. A chilling ending to an action-packed fight.

4. Carlos Zarate KO 4 Alfonso Zamora, April 23, 1977: The long-awaited "Battle Of The Z-Boys" is every bit as explosive as advertised, with Zarate, 47-0 (46), bombing out Zamora, 28-1 (28). Lots of extracurricular activity: A fan rushes into the ring during round one, and after the stoppage, Zamora's father attacks Zarate's manager, Cuyo Hernandez.

5. Lionel Rose W 15 Chucho Castillo, December 6, 1968: Crowd favorite Castillo scores a knockdown in the 10th, but bantamweight champion Rose gets the split nod, prompting the 15,287 in attendance to start a full-scale riot.

6. Paul Banke KO 9 Daniel Zaragoza, April 23, 1990: In a war reminiscent of their first fight, Banke gains revenge and wins the WBC super bantamweight title by roaring from behind to twice drop the Mexican southpaw in the ninth.

7. Ruben Olivares W 15 Chucho Castillo, April 18, 1970: No one ever turned on a Forum crowd like "Rockabye Ruben," and a crowd of 18,762 watches him rise from a third-round knockdown, turn counterpuncher, and outpoint fellow Mexican Castillo in a highly charged grudge match.

8. Bobby Chacon W 10 David Sotelo, February 25, 1976: Chacon dominates for seven rounds, then gets dropped and badly cut in the eighth. Suddenly, there is high drama. Sotelo scores another knockdown in the 10th, but Chacon manages to hang on until the final bell.

9. Rafael Herrera W 15 Venice Borkorsor, October 13, 1973: WBC bantamweight champion Herrera scores a knockdown in the seventh, then, exhausted and boxing with both eyes swollen almost shut, barely survives the Thai southpaw's big finish to win by split decision.

10. (tie) Daniel Zaragoza W 12 Paul Banke, June 22, 1989: Toe-to-toe all the way. Banke drops WBC super bantamweight champion Zaragoza in the ninth and rallies late, but the split decision goes to "The Mouse."

10. (tie) Chucho Castillo KO 14 Ruben Olivares, October 16, 1970: In a highly anticipated rematch, Olivares suffers a cut over his left eye in the first round, and the bout becomes a race against time. After 13 rounds, the fight is even on the cards, but bleeding badly, Olivares is rescued in the 14th, and Castillo takes the 118-pound crown.

–Steve Farhood

A Day In The Life Of A Superstar

THE RING VISITS OSCAR DE LA HOYA

Some people get all the tough assignments: In late-January, THE RING correspondent Ivan G. Goldman and photographer Brent Cook spent a day with the hottest young fighter in boxing, Oscar De La Hoya, who was training at Big Bear, California, a ski resort in the San Bernardino Mountains about 2½ hours by car from Los Angeles. De La Hoya was preparing for a February 9 date with Darryl Tyson in Las Vegas (see "Ringside Reports").

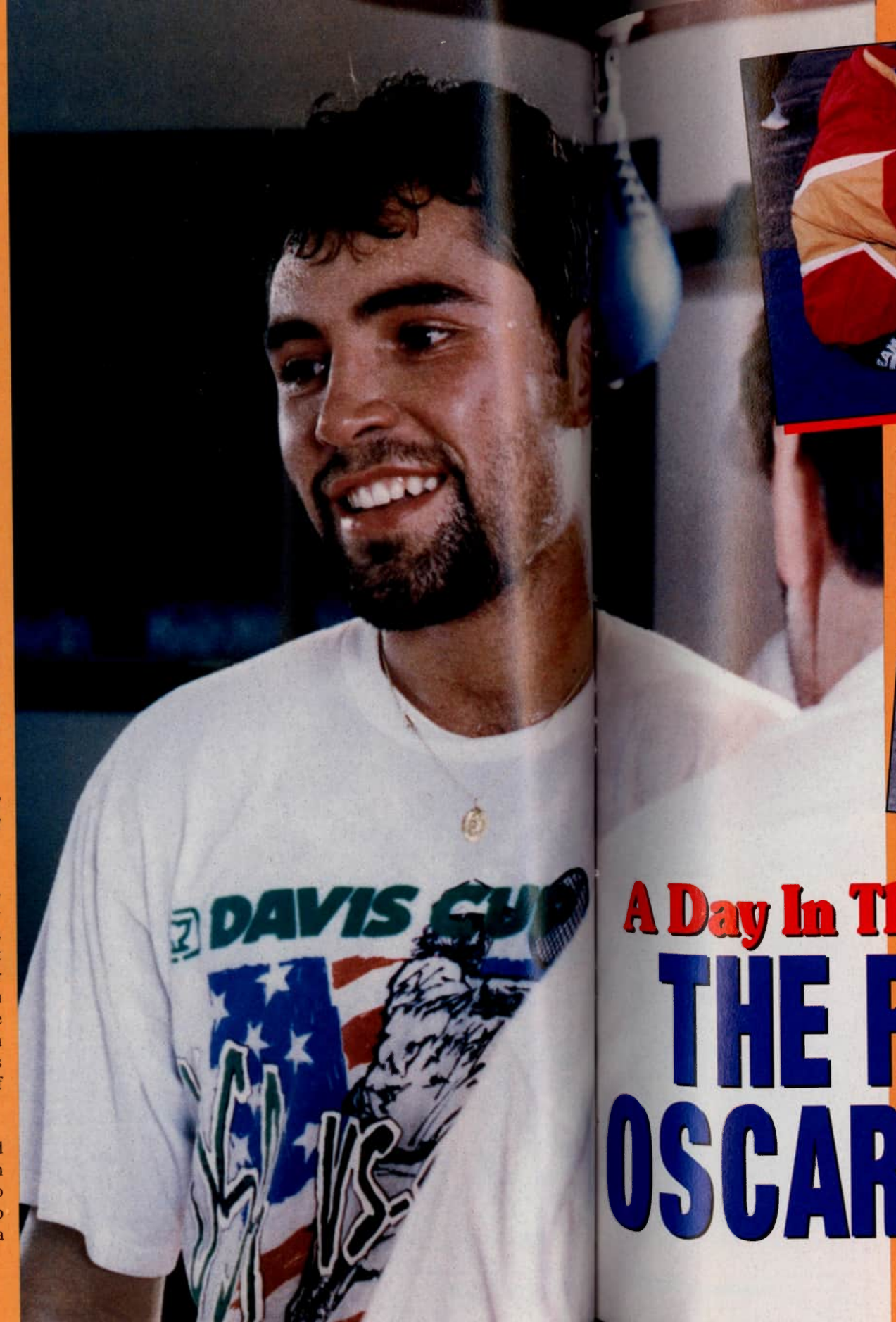
Reports Goldman, "De La Hoya is viewed by many critics as aloof, a kind of royal dignitary who needs some kind of leveling, preferably in the prize ring. The truth is, he is a regular guy who does not stand on ceremony and is quite decent to the people around him. But De La Hoya maintains his dignity, and he's not likely to get himself a 'Born To Lose' tattoo to prove he's no snob.

When we visited him in Big Bear, De La Hoya was just shy of his 23rd birthday—and he'd already been famous for years. He recently negotiated contracts to endorse a new round of commercial products. This will result in broader media exposure, more intense fame and attention, and, of course, more money. So far, he is handling all of it better than a sniveling collection of brats I could name from the worlds of Hollywood, baseball, football, and basketball, not to mention rock music, politics, and tennis."

De La Hoya may be rocketing toward the sky, but his feet remain firmly planted on the ground.

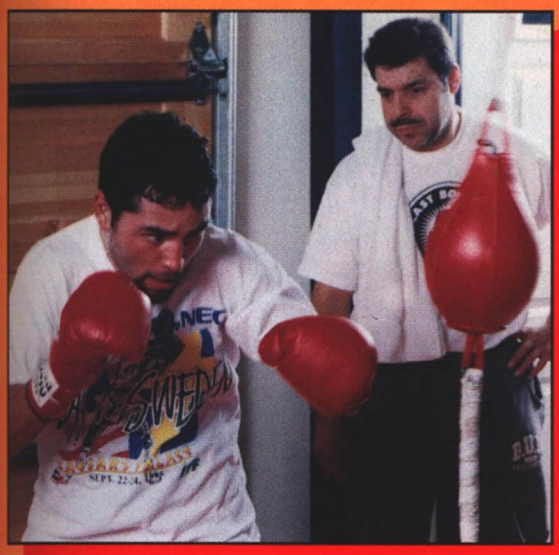
7 a.m.: De La Hoya rises, cleans up, and dresses for roadwork on a cold morning. "The Golden Boy" stays in a rented, spacious Tudor chalet. Inside, it's a bit untidy. Not dirty, just clothing and other items dropped around, much like you would find in a college dormitory or the living quarters on an oil rig. Team De La Hoya is all guys, and like most guys, its members apparently don't spend a lot of time hunched over *Good Housekeeping*.

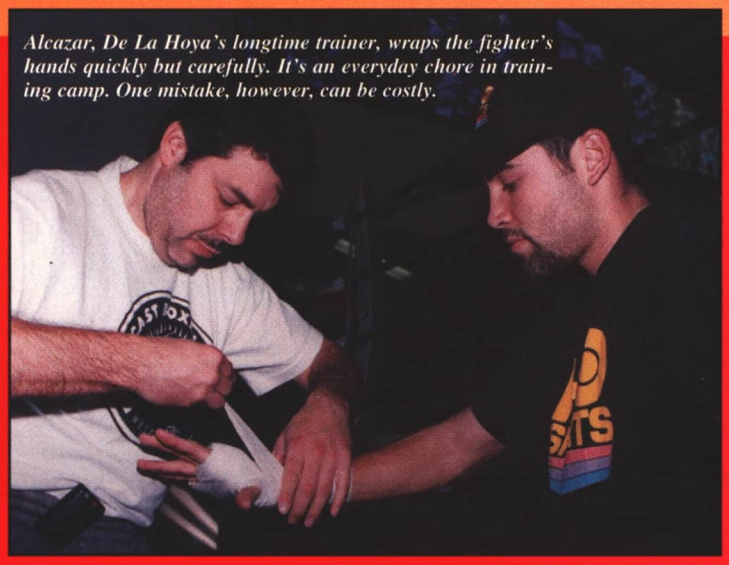
7:30 a.m.: Joe Pajar, a childhood friend of De La Hoya, starts up a Chevy mini-van and drives the fighter, trainer Roberto Alcazar, and another member of the camp to a stretch of pavement that circles a snow-covered golf course.



It's easy to pull muscles in cold weather, and De La Hoya makes sure to engage in a series of stretching exercises (left) before beginning his roadwork (below).

Before breakfast, "The Golden Boy" makes sure the waitress knows she's serving KO's 1995 Fighter of the Year (above). When De La Hoya turns on the charm, he's going to win most young ladies over.





Alcazar, De La Hoya's longtime trainer, wraps the fighter's hands quickly but carefully. It's an everyday chore in training camp. One mistake, however, can be costly.

With his fight vs. Darryl Tyson a couple of weeks away, De La Hoya, working under Alcazar's watchful eye, seemed focused.

How big a star is "The Golden Boy"? When he works out at Big Bear, he does so with a De La Hoya mural as his backdrop.

7:35 a.m.: De La Hoya gets out on the pavement and begins stretching. The keeper of this journal passes out copies of the April issue of *KO*, a sister publication of THE RING, and De La Hoya takes some time to read the article that has designated him 1995's Fighter of the Year. [Editor's Note: De La Hoya was also THE RING'S Fighter of the Year.]

7:45 a.m.: De La Hoya takes off running uphill at a good, steady clip. The elevation is above 7,000 feet and the air thin. Don't try this at home. Few people are around, and those who are nearby stop what they're doing to watch.

8:15 a.m.: De La Hoya sprints to a finish up a steeper incline.

8:16 a.m.: Calisthenics, more stretching, and some shadowboxing on a small asphalt clearing alongside the road. De La Hoya throws sharp combinations and whispers, "Bam!" with each punch.

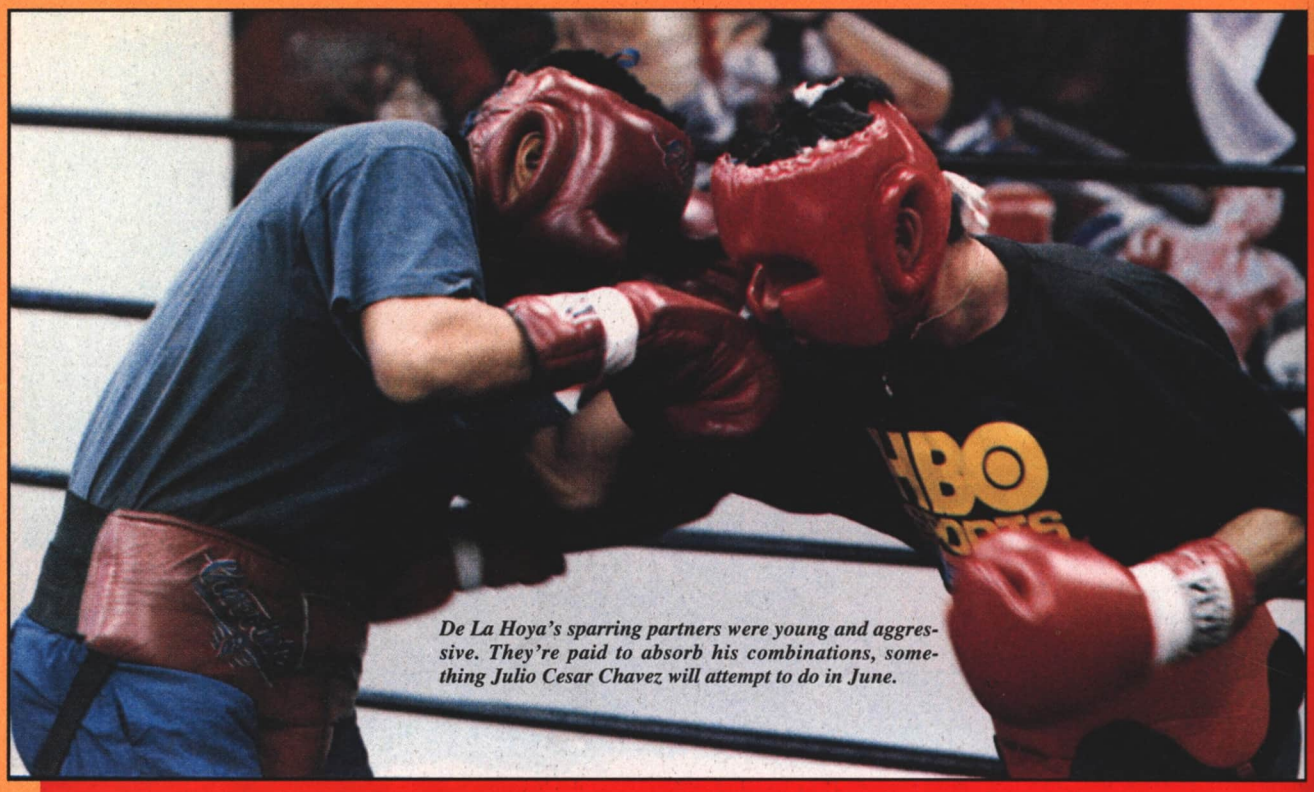
He also takes time out now and then to put together giant snowballs and heave them at the van, where Pajar still sits.

8:25 a.m.: Handlers put a blue blanket down on the blacktop. De La Hoya responds with more stretching and calisthenics from a prone position.

8:55 a.m.: Back in the van.

9 a.m.: Breakfast at the Sugar Bear restaurant, a clean, well-lit place. Nothing fancy. Paper napkins and brown formica tables. The waitress, Krista Saucido, is young and pretty, and treats De La Hoya like she would any other handsome, easy-going kid—but not like a superstar: "Do you know what you want or don't you?" she asks. He loves it and teases her back. This is obviously ongoing, everyday banter.

De La Hoya settles on milk, a large orange juice, five eggs fried (whites only), hash browns, and bacon. "I'm treating



De La Hoya's sparring partners were young and aggressive. They're paid to absorb his combinations, something Julio Cesar Chavez will attempt to do in June.

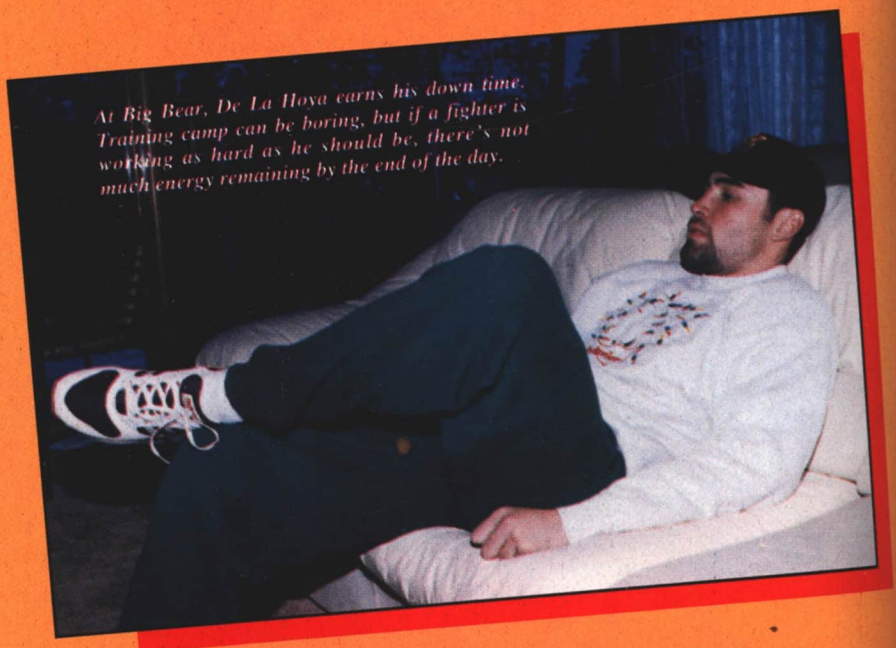
myself to the bacon," he explains. "I need a little bit of grease." This will be De La Hoya's first fight at 140 pounds, and he's delighted to eat without guilt. Still, he doesn't touch the potatoes.

At one point, breakfast conversation turns to another U.S. boxing Olympian who was unsuccessful as a pro. "I tried to help him," De La Hoya says, "but he hates my guts." There is no rancor in his words. He's just stating a fact. He already knows that superstars generate hatred as well as adulation, and when the mighty don't fall, some people take it personally.

Glancing through the *KO* article again, De La Hoya asks, "Has anybody ever made Fighter of the Year two years in a row?" The answer is no. He nods his head thoughtfully, obviously spying another goal to shoot for.

De La Hoya downs a couple of vitamin pills with the remains of his milk and writes a check for breakfast.

9:45 a.m.: Back to the house to rest and try for a nap. De La Hoya flops onto a long couch in front of the TV, grabs the remote, and relentlessly switches channels. Offended that he has flipped past one of those old, really good Bogart flicks, the tag team from THE RING leaves him to relax.



At Big Bear, De La Hoya earns his down time. Training camp can be boring, but if a fighter is working as hard as he should be, there's not much energy remaining by the end of the day.

1:45 p.m.: Alcazar, who has trained De La Hoya for 10 years, seven of them full-time, shows up at the gym. It's been converted from a garage next to De La Hoya's future house, which is under construction and almost complete. The house is a big, modified A-frame built of log and stone, and it has skylights everywhere. De La Hoya had the contractor complete the gym first, suggesting his priorities are straight.

The gym is clean and utilitarian, with all the relevant equipment, including two heavybags, two speedbags, a double-end bag, a full-sized boxing ring, shadowboxing mirrors, and a treadmill. A mural featuring events in De La Hoya's life is painted on a wall beside the ring.

(Continued on page 72)

THE 50 BEST FIGHTERS OF THE LAST 50 YEARS

Compiled By Steve Farhood

Choosing the 50 best fighters of the last 50 years was the easy part. It was ranking them in order that created anxiety, self-doubt, and fear and loathing on Bash Boulevard.

If you don't disagree with some of Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood's selections or find fault with some of his placements, there's something wrong with *you*. These types of things can be debated forever, but before you cancel your subscription because we couldn't find room for Bazooka Limon, let us at least explain our criteria. In choosing and then ranking these fighters, we considered (in no particular order) skills, accomplishment, level of opposition, and longevity. Of course, the results are still purely subjective.

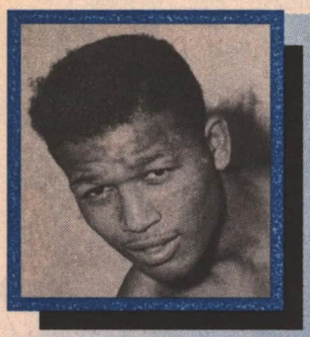
A couple of things: We considered only the years 1946 to 1996, which is why you won't find Tony Zale, Manuel Ortiz, or several other all-time greats on the list. Zale and Ortiz both reigned as world champions after 1946, but were well past their primes.

And we'll feel a bit better if you allow us to name the fighters who just missed out. Tied at number 51, then, are Harold Johnson, Rodrigo Valdes, Donald Curry, Jeff Chandler, Nicolino Locche, Joe Brown, and Luis Rodriguez.

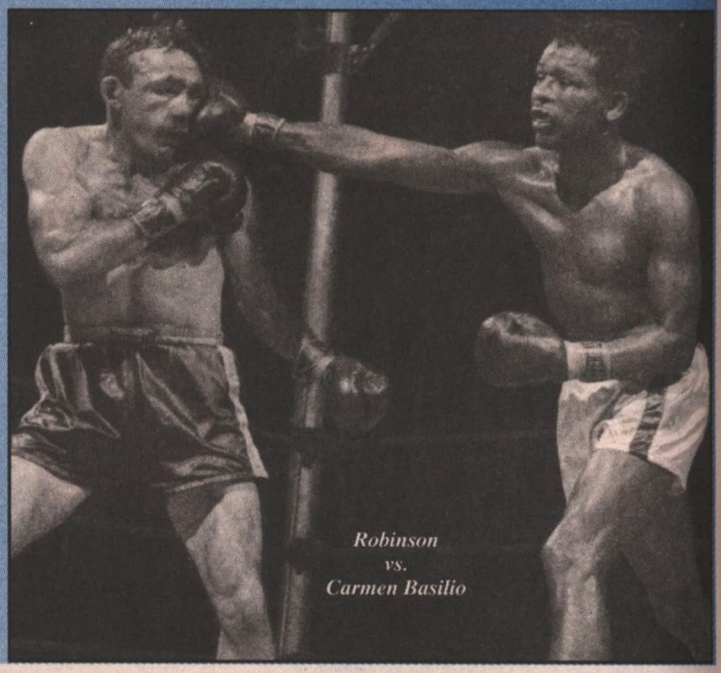
Okay, turn the page, start your engines, and let the Farhood-bashing begin.

Note: Quality of Competition is a subjective judgment based on a scale of 1-10

Undisputed champion



1. SUGAR RAY ROBINSON



Robinson vs. Carmen Basilio

Record: 175-19-6 (110)

Years Active: 1940-1952; 1954-1965

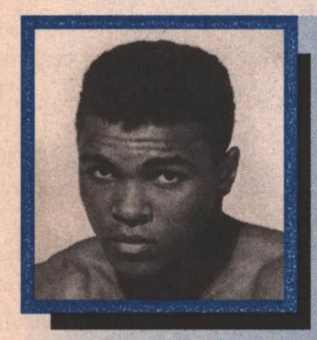
World Titles: Welterweight*, Middleweight*

Quality of Competition: 10

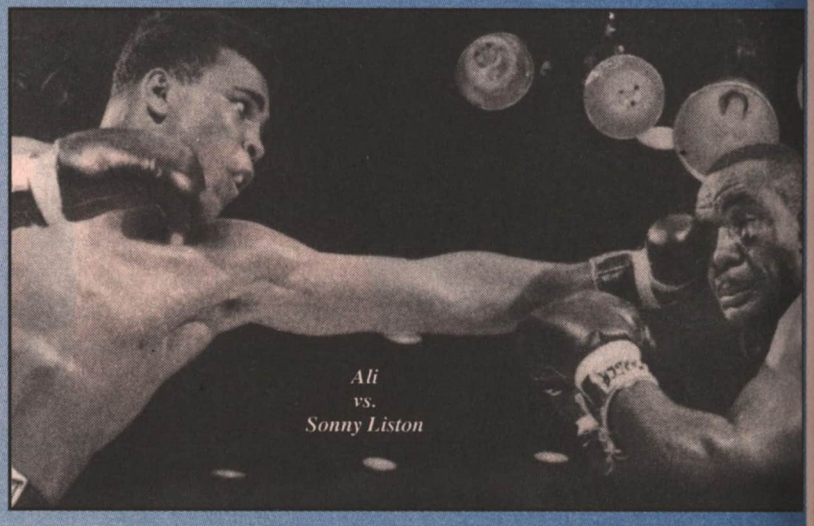
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 4

Why He's Here: The last 50 years, the last 100, it doesn't matter. He's the greatest fighter of all-time

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Walked on water



2. MUHAMMAD ALI



Ali vs. Sonny Liston

Record: 56-5 (37)

Years Active: 1960-1967; 1970-1981

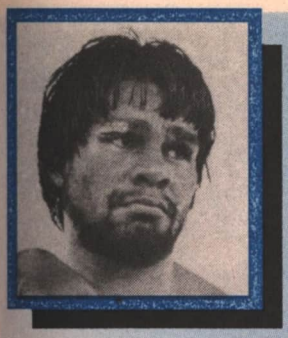
World Titles: Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 10

Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 6

Why He's Here: With apologies to Joe Louis, there's never been a better heavyweight

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Defended the title from March 1967 to October 1970



3. ROBERTO DURAN

Record: 96-11 (67)

Years Active: 1967-present

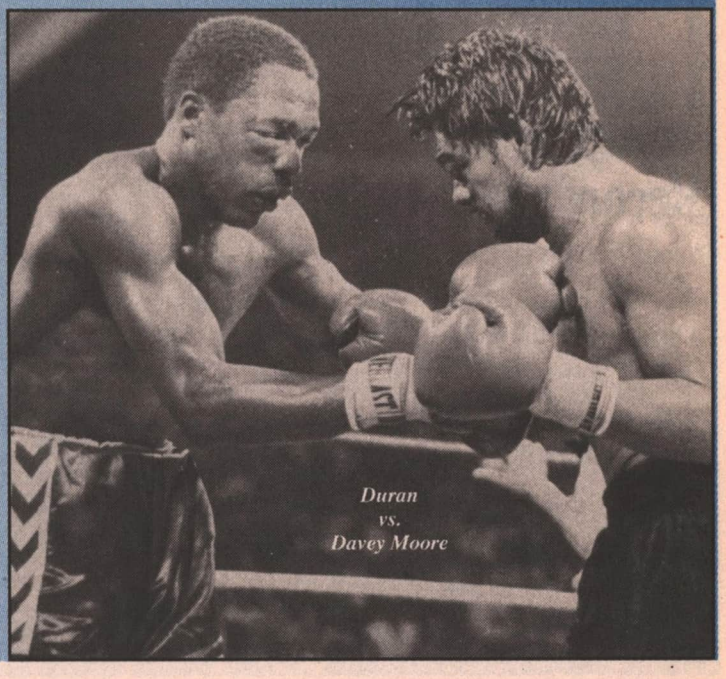
World Titles: Lightweight*, Welterweight, Junior Middleweight, Middleweight

Quality of Competition: 10

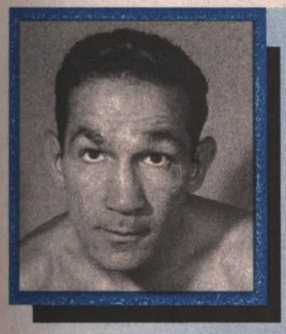
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 4

Why He's Here: Who can match his mix of talent, ferocity, accomplishment, and longevity?

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Taken his lumps like a man in the second Sugar Ray Leonard fight



Duran vs. Davey Moore



4. WILLIE PEP

Record: 230-11-1 (65)

Years Active: 1940-1959; 1965-1966

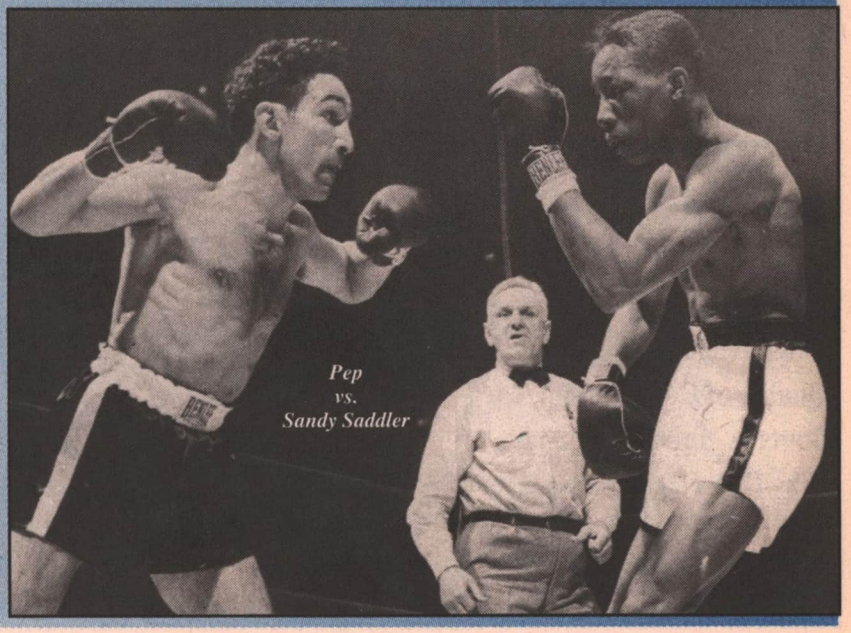
World Titles: Featherweight*

Quality of Competition: 9

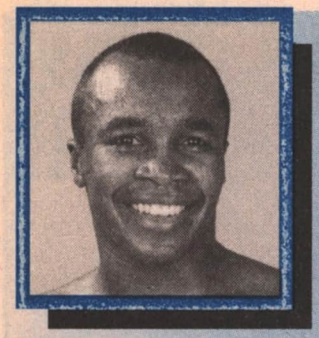
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 1

Why He's Here: He's the greatest defensive fighter ever

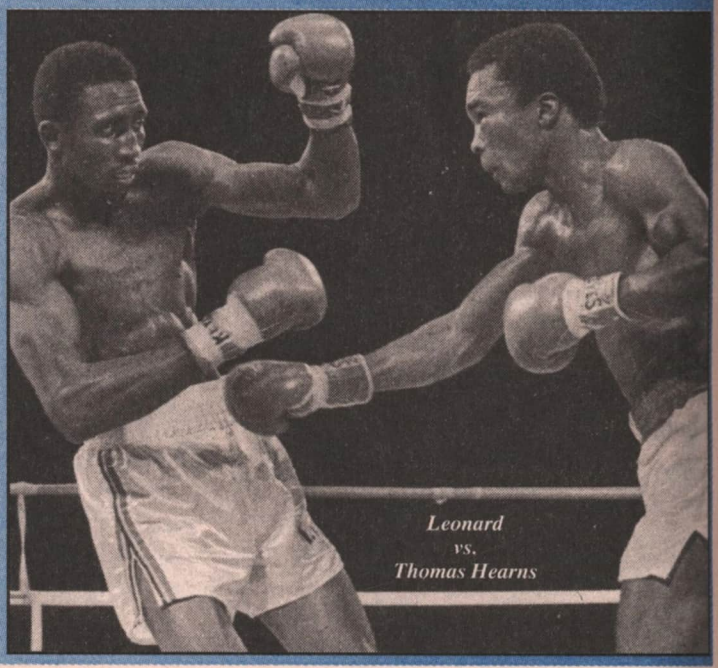
What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Engaged in his series vs. Sandy Saddler when he was younger



Pep vs. Sandy Saddler



5. SUGAR RAY LEONARD



Leonard vs. Thomas Hearns

Record: 36-2-1 (25)

Years Active: 1977-1982; 1984; 1987-1991

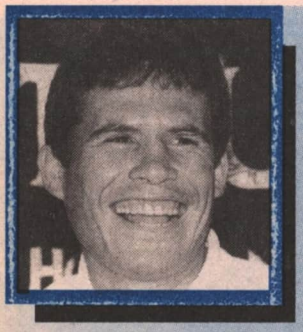
World Titles: Welterweight*, Junior Middleweight, Middleweight, Super Middleweight, Light Heavyweight

Quality of Competition: 10

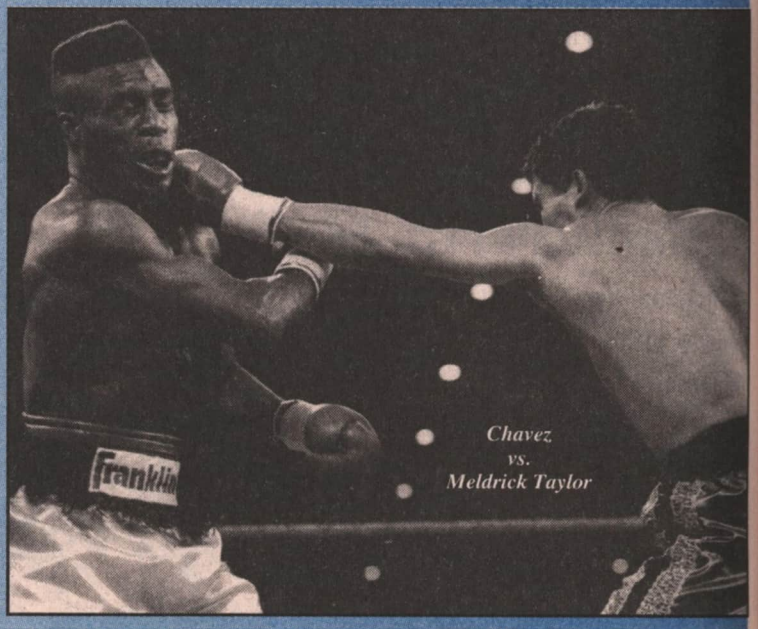
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 4

Why He's Here: The dominant fighter of the '80s, he was every bit as good as the hype

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Not much. His career was close to perfect



6. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ



Chavez vs. Meldrick Taylor

Record: 96-1-1 (78)

Years Active: 1980-present

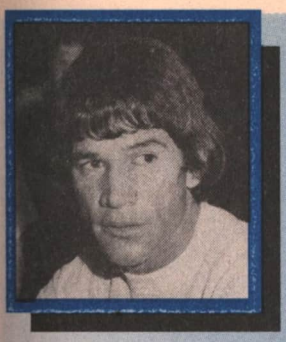
World Titles: Junior Lightweight, Lightweight, Junior Welterweight

Quality of Competition: 9

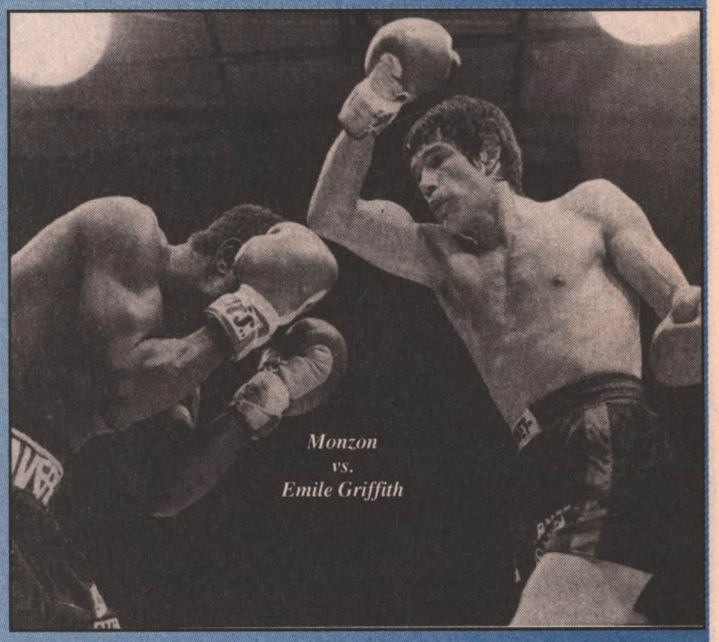
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 1

Why He's Here: Enjoyed a lengthy stay at the top of the pound-for-pound ratings

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Kayoed Pernell Whitaker



7. CARLOS MONZON



Monzon vs. Emile Griffith

Record: 89-3-8 (61) with 1 no-contest

Years Active: 1963-1977

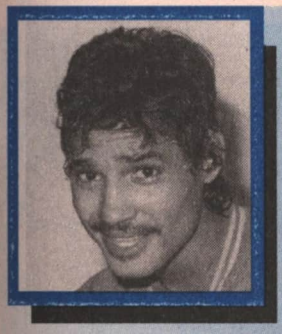
World Titles: Middleweight*

Quality of Competition: 9

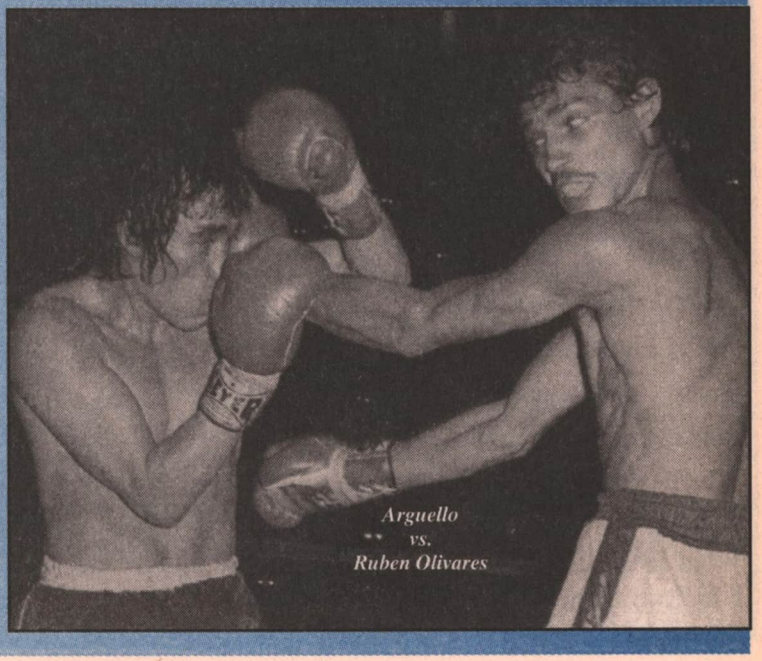
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: Check the record book: Went undefeated for 13 years and 81 bouts; made a division-record 14 successful defenses

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Been born 15 years earlier so he could have fought Sugar Ray Robinson



8. ALEXIS ARGUELLO



Arguello vs. Ruben Olivares

Record: 80-8 (64)

Years Active: 1968-1986; 1994-1995

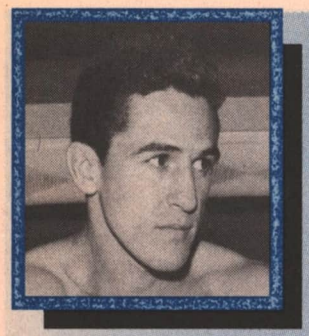
World Titles: Featherweight, Junior Lightweight, Lightweight

Quality of Competition: 9

Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: He went 19-1 in title fights at 126, 130, and 135 pounds

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Made one of those big right hands count vs. Aaron Pryor in Miami



9. EDER JOFRE

Record: 72-2-4 (50)

Years Active: 1957-1966; 1969-1976

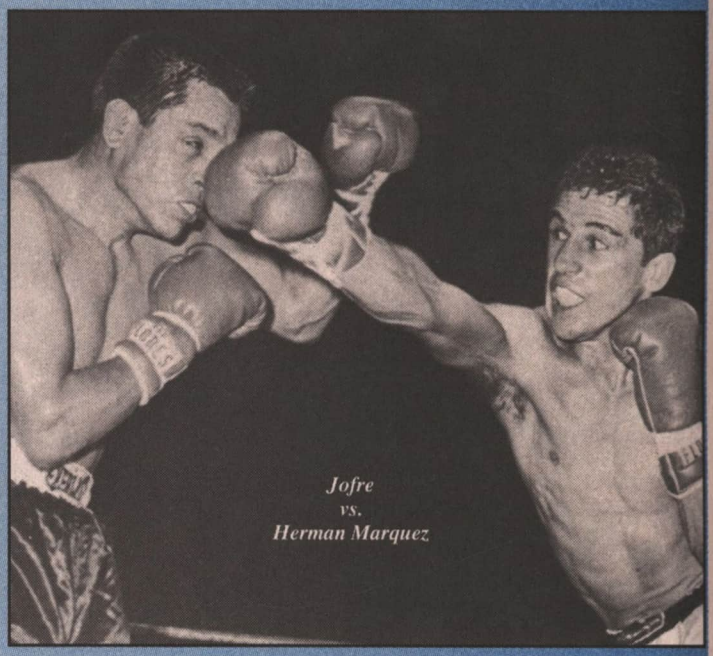
World Titles: Bantamweight*, Featherweight

Quality of Competition: 7

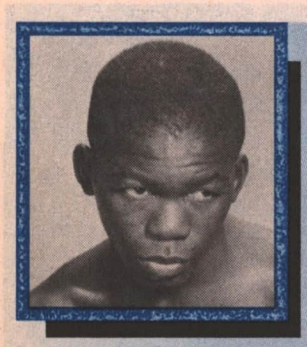
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: Unbeaten in his first 50 fights; great bantamweight who took three years off and returned to win the feather title

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Reigned during the run of brilliant Mexican 118-pounders



Jofre vs. Herman Marquez



10. IKE WILLIAMS

Record: 123-25-5 (60)

Years Active: 1940-1955

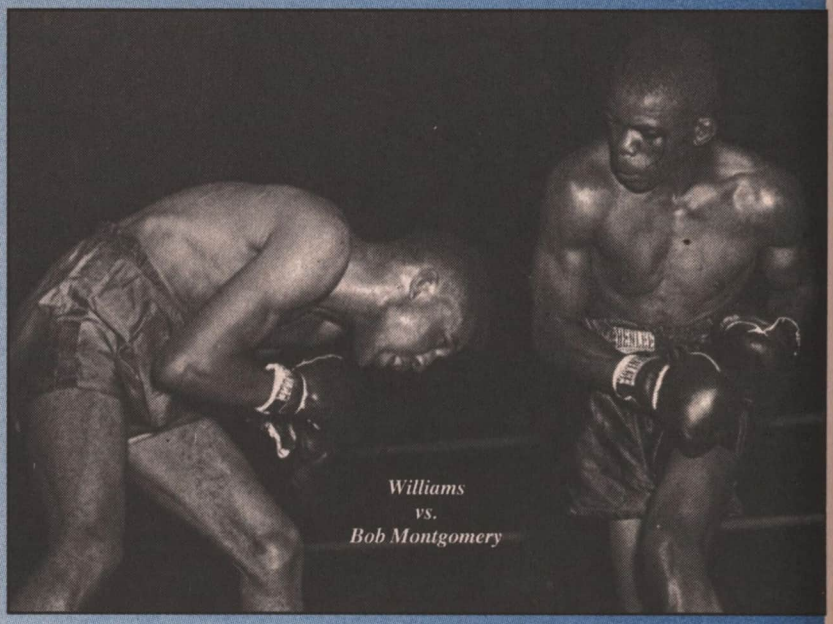
World Titles: Lightweight*

Quality of Competition: 8

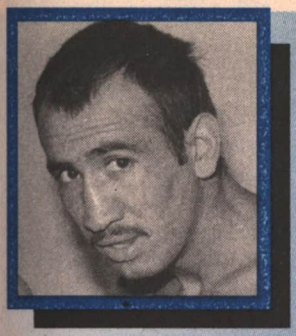
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 1

Why He's Here: Lightweight champ with welterweight power

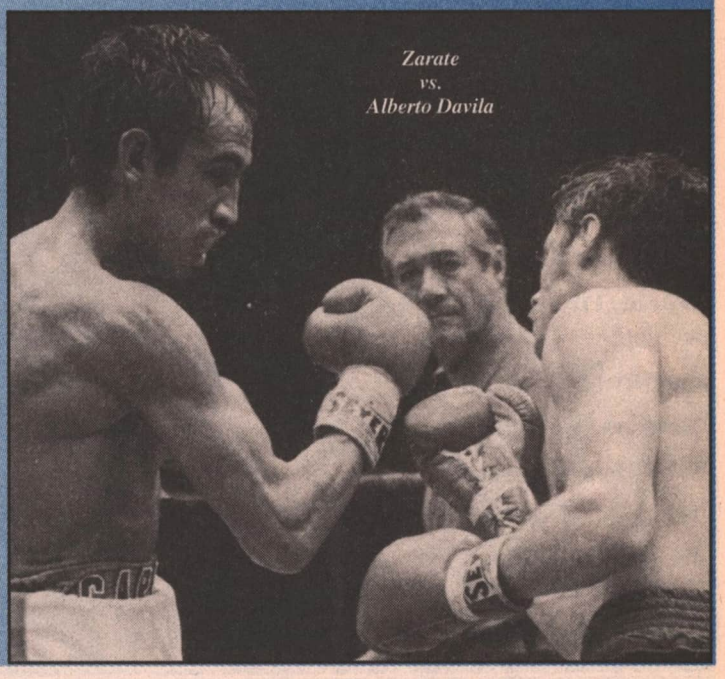
What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Won the 147-pound crown



Williams vs. Bob Montgomery



11. CARLOS ZARATE



Zarate vs. Alberto Davila

Record: 61-4 (58)

Years Active: 1970-1979; 1986-1988

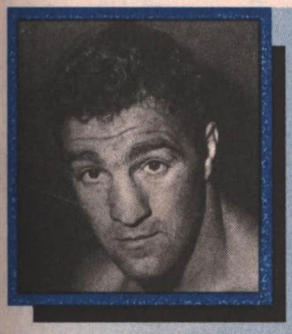
World Titles: Bantamweight

Quality of Competition: 8

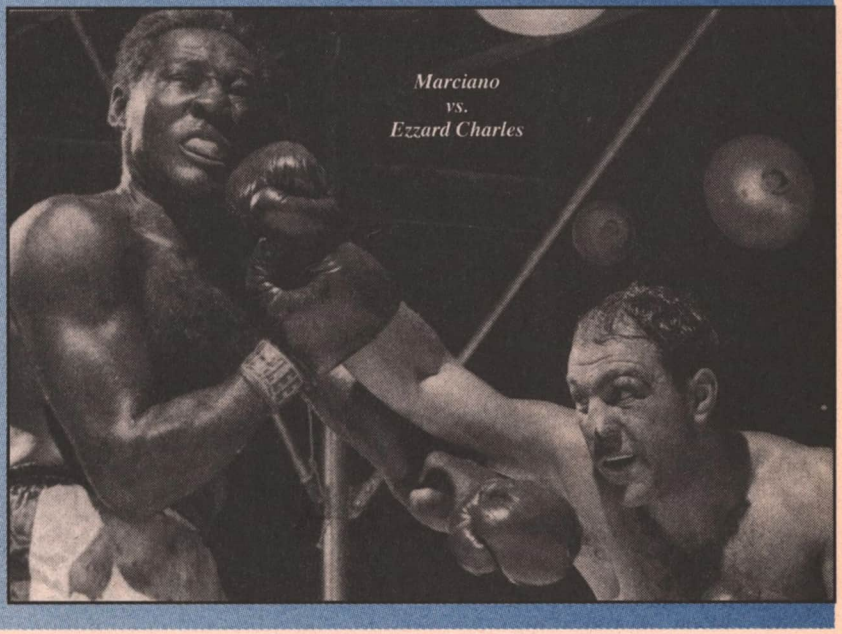
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 1

Why He's Here: His amazing list of kayos includes Alfonso Zamora, whom he crushed in the biggest bantamweight fight ever

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Made a better showing vs. Wilfredo Gomez



12. ROCKY MARCIANO



Marciano vs. Ezzard Charles

Record: 49-0 (43)

Years Active: 1947-1955

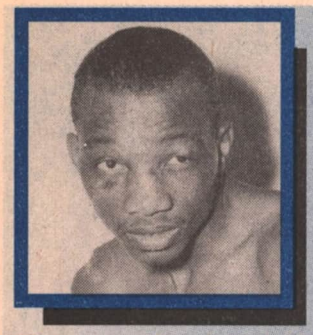
World Titles: Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 7

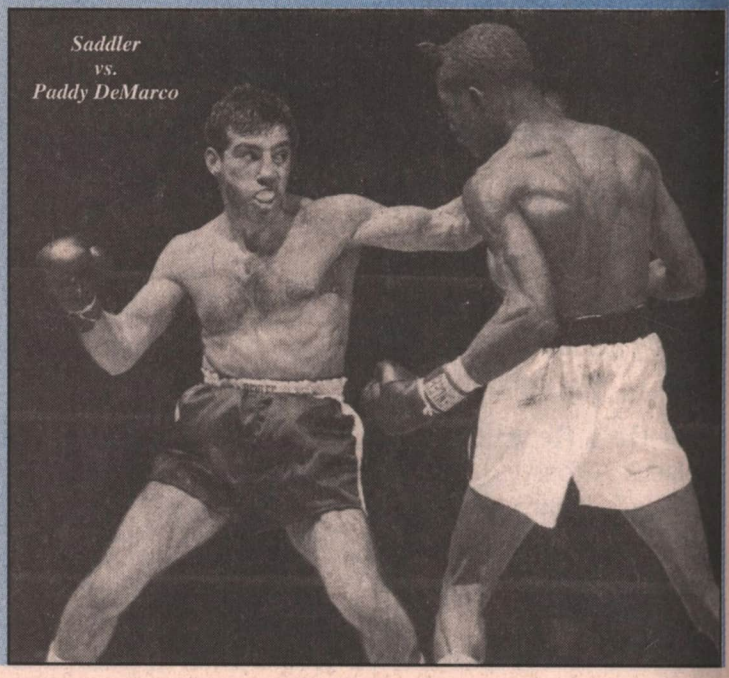
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: You can't argue with perfection

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Beaten Joe Louis 10 years before he did



13. SANDY SADDLER



Saddler vs. Paddy DeMarco

Record: 144-16-2 (103)

Years Active: 1944-1956

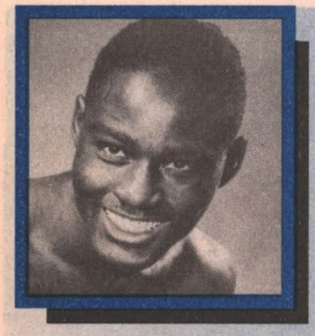
World Titles: Featherweight*, Junior Lightweight*

Quality of Competition: 9

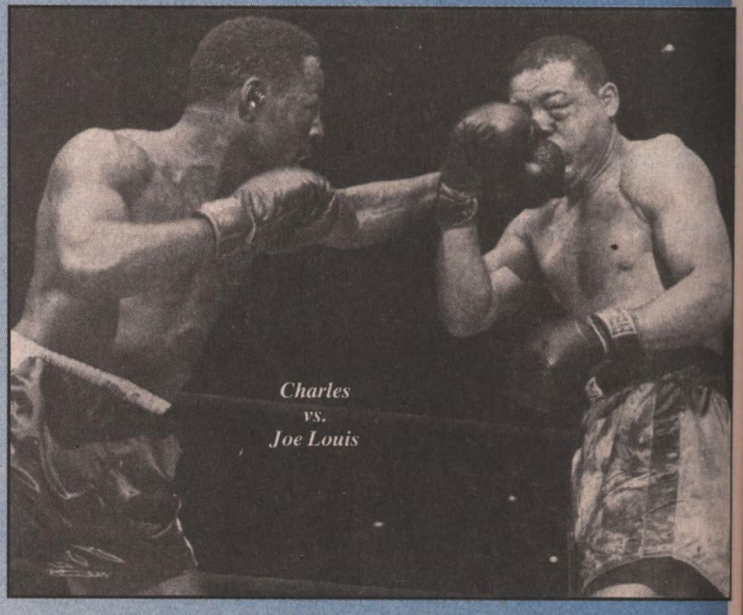
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: He licked Pep three of four

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Defended the 126-pound crown with more regularity



14. EZZARD CHARLES



Charles vs. Joe Louis

Record: 96-25-1 (58)

Years Active: 1940-1956; 1958-1959

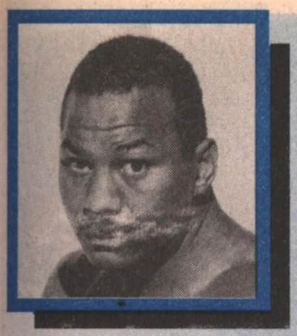
World Titles: Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 8

Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: He was the best light heavyweight of all-time

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Beaten The Rock just once



15. JOSE NAPOLES

Record: 77-7 (54)

Years Active: 1958-1975

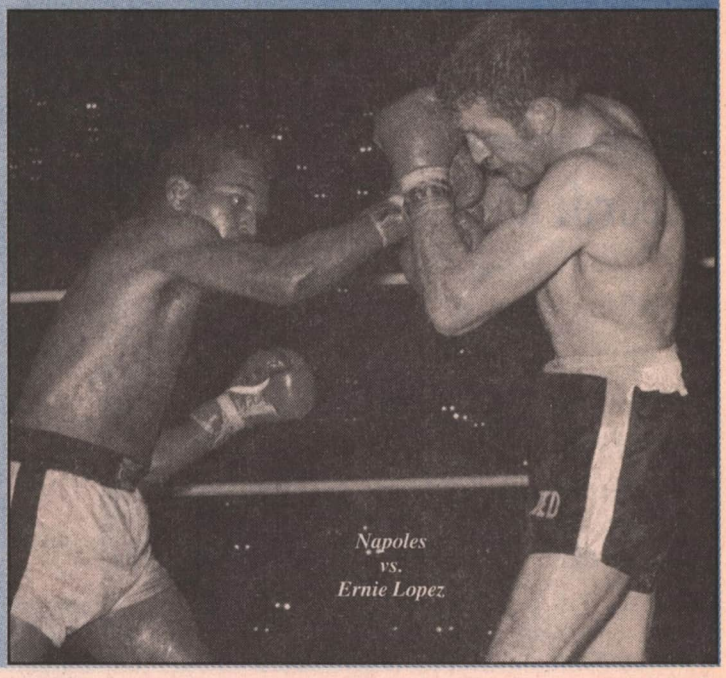
World Titles: Welterweight*

Quality of Competition: 7

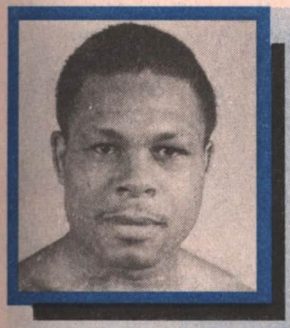
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: Intoxicating blend of speed, smooth skills, and left-hook power

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Toughened his skin



Napoles vs. Ernie Lopez



16. ARCHIE MOORE

Record: 183-22-9 (129) with 1 no-contest

Years Active: 1936-1963

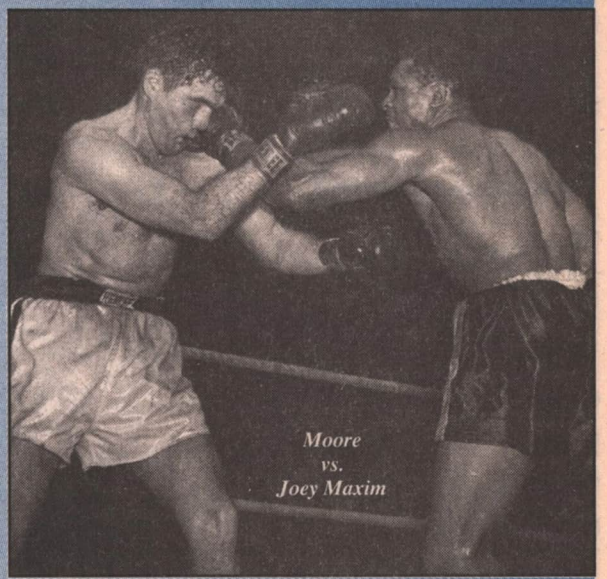
World Titles: Light Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 10

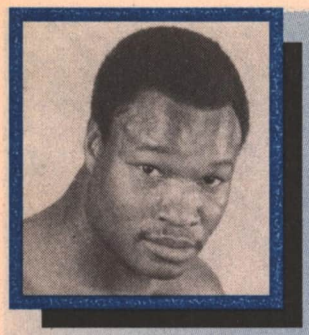
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: If he was good enough to hold the 175-pound title at age 48, how good do you think he was at 28?

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Do what so many others did: Reach Floyd Patterson's chin



Moore vs. Joey Maxim



17. LARRY HOLMES

Record: 63-5 (41)

Years Active: 1973-1986; 1988; 1991-present

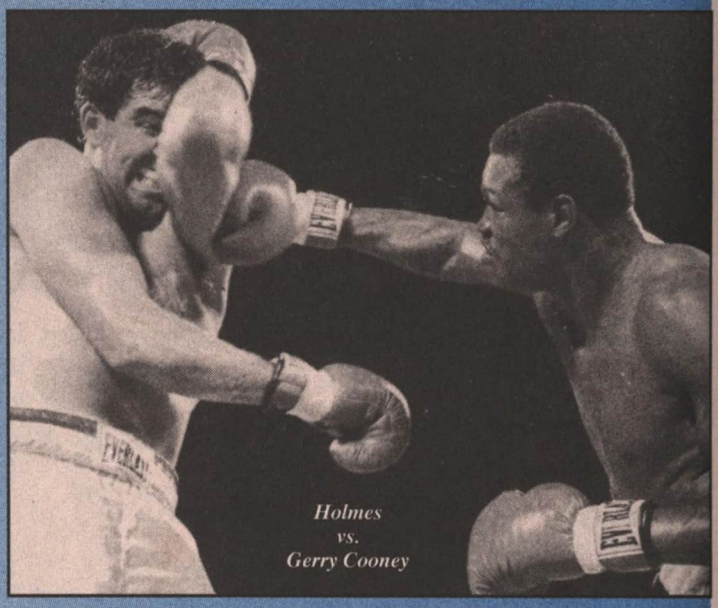
World Titles: Heavyweight

Quality of Competition: 8

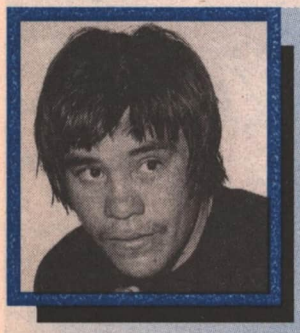
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 4

Why He's Here: He made 20 successful defenses

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Beaten Muhammad Ali five years earlier than he did



Holmes vs. Gerry Cooney



18. RUBEN OLIVARES

Record: 88-13-3 (78)

Years Active: 1964-1981; 1986

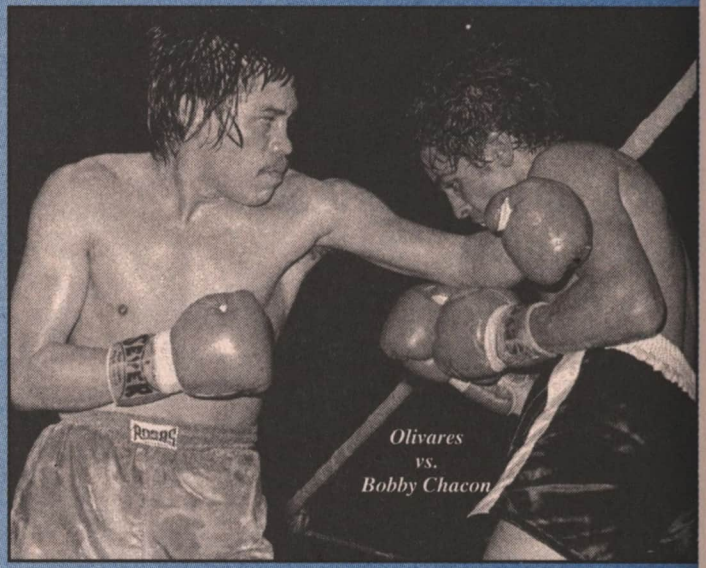
World Titles: Bantamweight*, Featherweight

Quality of Competition: 9

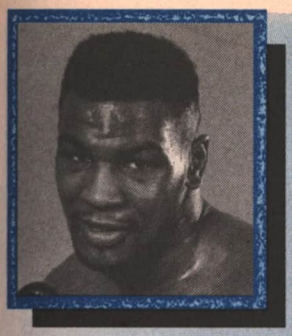
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: He twice won the feather title, even though he didn't belong at that weight

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Taken better care of his body



Olivares vs. Bobby Chacon



19. MIKE TYSON

Record: 43-1 (37)

Years Active: 1985-1991; 1995-present

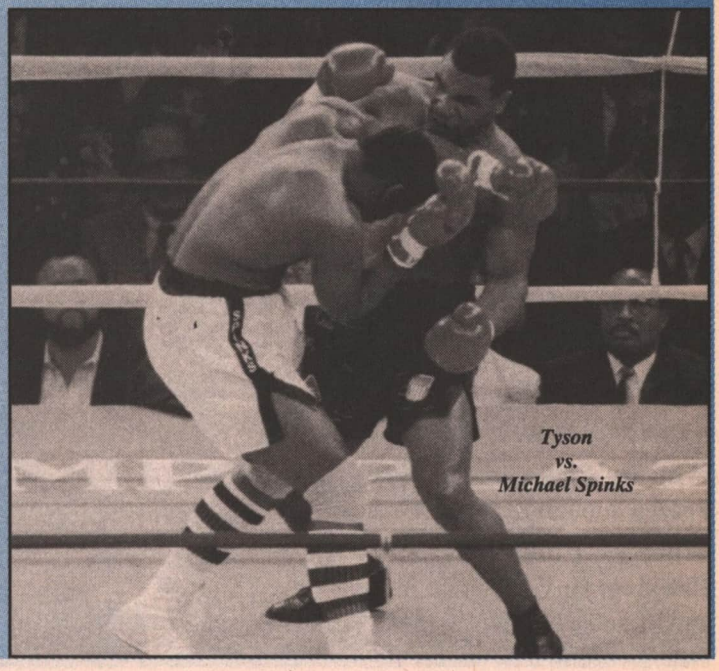
World Titles: Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 8

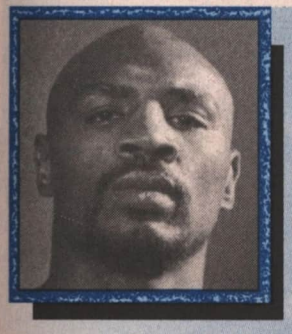
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: Unified title and reigned with iron fists

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: It's not what he could have done, it's what he can still do



Tyson vs. Michael Spinks



20. MARVIN HAGLER

Record: 62-3-2 (52)

Years Active: 1973-1987

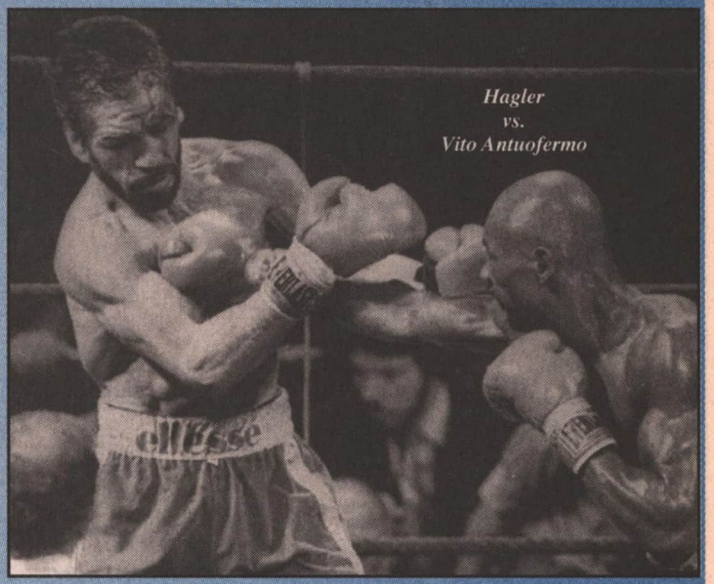
World Titles: Middleweight*

Quality of Competition: 9

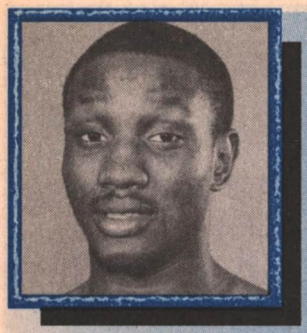
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: Dominated the division for more than 10 years, both before and during title reign

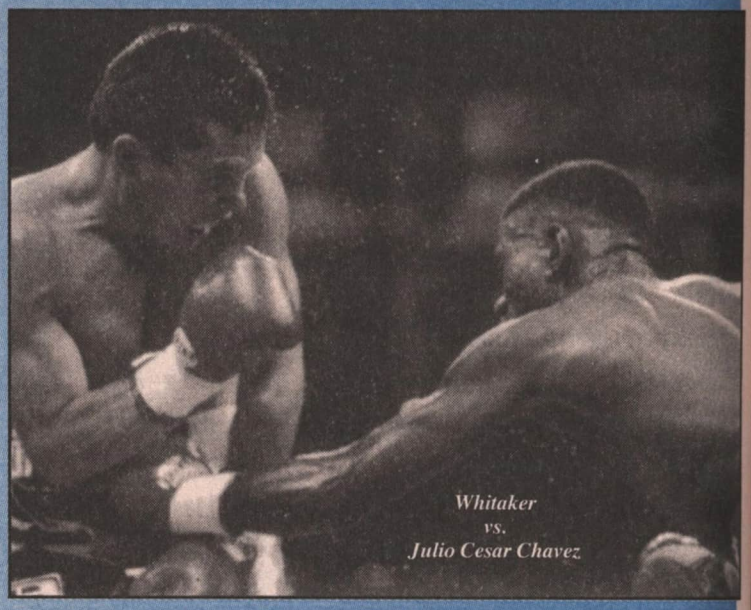
What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Not given away the first four rounds vs. Sugar Ray Leonard



Hagler vs. Vito Antuofermo



21. PERNELL WHITAKER



Whitaker vs. Julio Cesar Chavez

Record: 37-1-1 (16)

Years Active: 1984-present

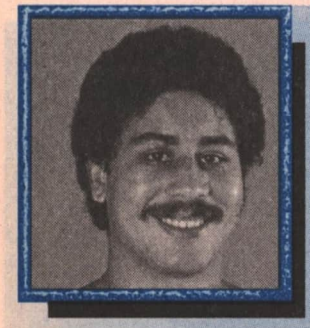
World Titles: Lightweight*, Junior Welterweight, Welterweight, Junior Middleweight

Quality of Competition: 8

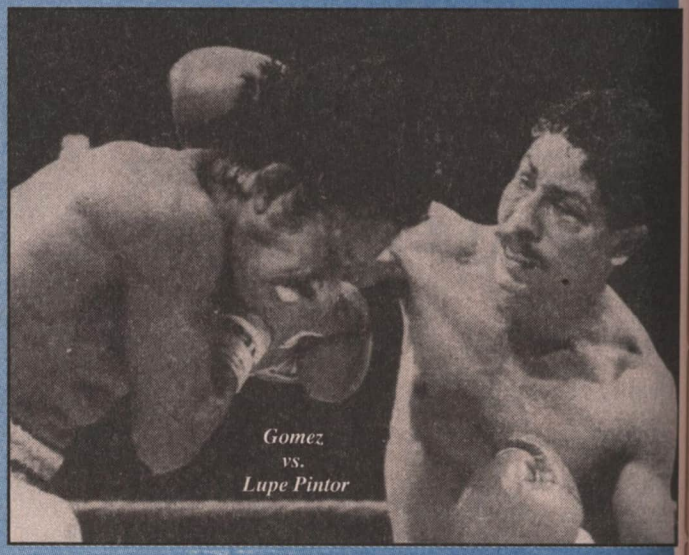
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: Career losses? With "Sweet Pea," it's tough finding *rounds* he's lost

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: He can still do it: Beat Felix Trinidad and/or Terry Norris



22. WILFREDO GOMEZ



Gomez vs. Lupe Pintor

Record: 42-3-1 (40)

Years Active: 1974-1986

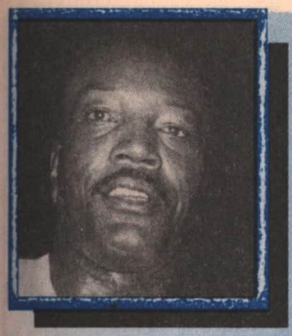
World Titles: Junior Featherweight, Featherweight, Junior Lightweight

Quality of Competition: 8

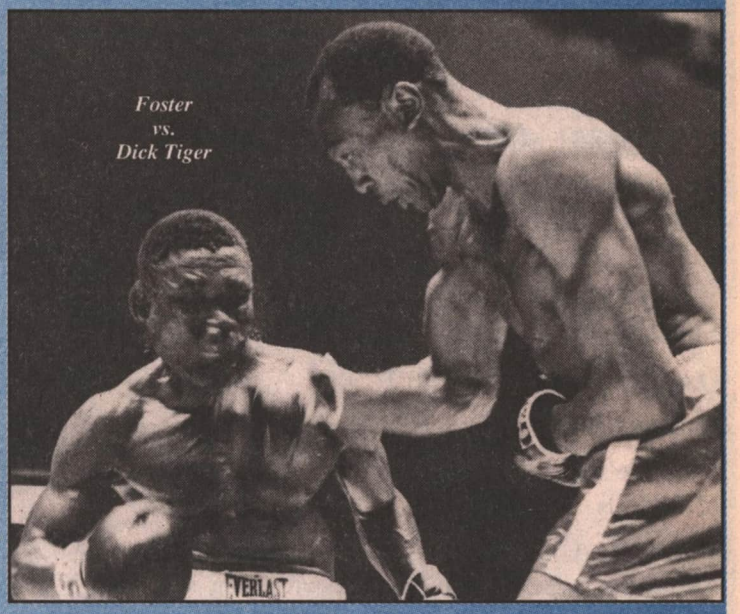
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: He was arguably the finest boxer-puncher of the early-'80s

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Give himself a chance by properly making weight for his bout vs. Salvador Sanchez



23. BOB FOSTER



Foster vs. Dick Tiger

Record: 56-8-1 (46)

Years Active: 1961-1978

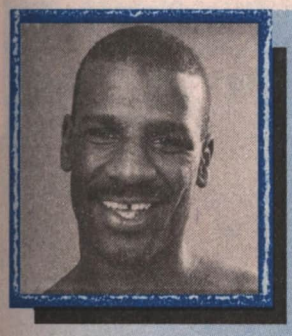
World Titles: Light Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 9

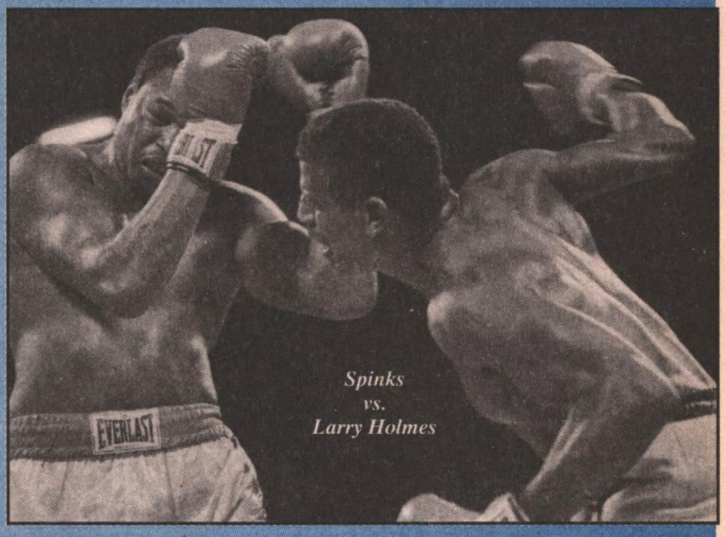
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: At his weight, he was virtually unbeatable

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Beaten at least one or two of those big-name heavyweights



24. MICHAEL SPINKS



Spinks vs. Larry Holmes

Record: 31-1 (21)

Years Active: 1977-1988

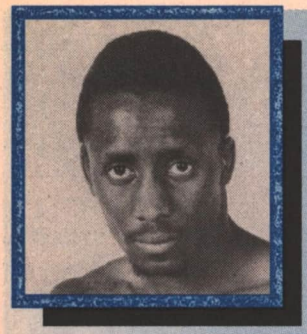
World Titles: Light Heavyweight*, Heavyweight

Quality of Competition: 8

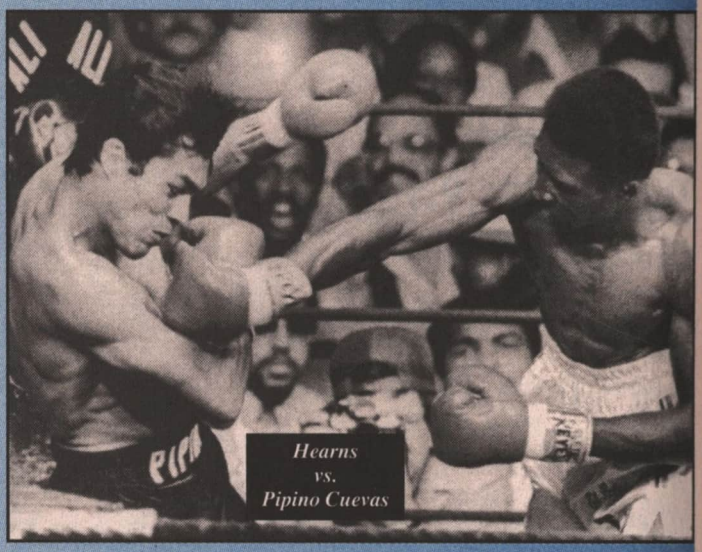
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: He's the only light heavy champ to have won the heavyweight title

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Received permission to carry a sledge-hammer into the ring against Mike Tyson



25. THOMAS HEARNS



Hearns vs. Pipino Cuevas

Record: 55-4-1 (43)

Years Active: 1977-present

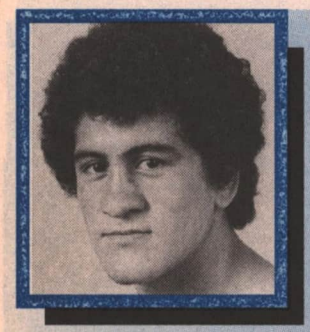
World Titles: Welterweight, Junior Middleweight, Middleweight, Light Heavyweight

Quality of Competition: 10

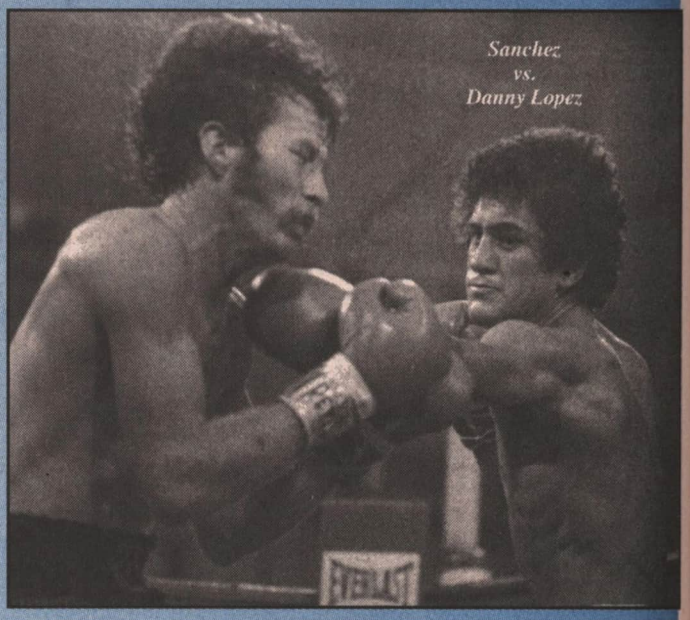
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 4

Why He's Here: He was the most exciting fighter of the '80s

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Won one of the biggest bouts of his career (vs. Sugar Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler).



26. SALVADOR SANCHEZ



Sanchez vs. Danny Lopez

Record: 44-1-1 (32)

Years Active: 1975-1982

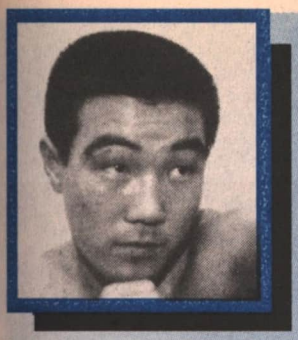
World Titles: Featherweight

Quality of Competition: 8

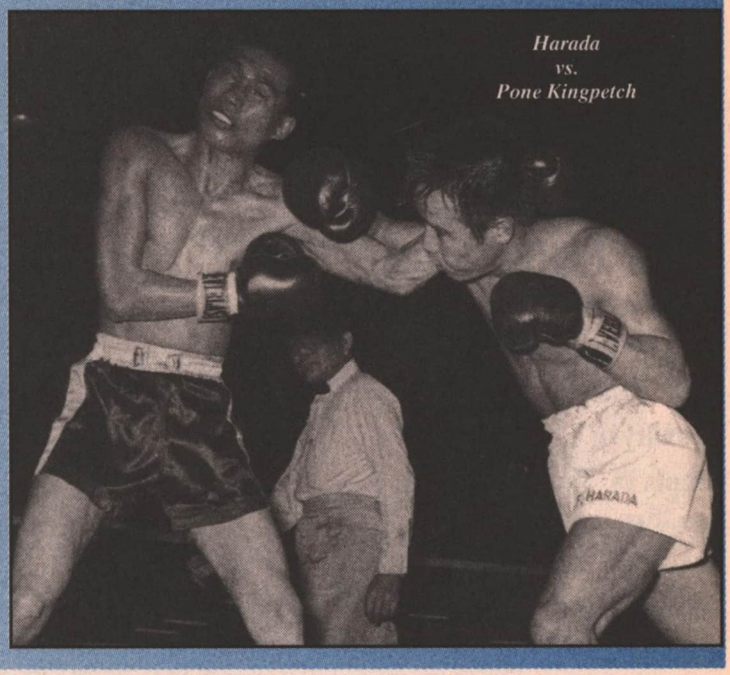
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: His victories over Wilfredo Gomez and Azumah Nelson

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Denied fate. (He was killed in a car accident at age 23)



27. FIGHTING HARADA



Harada vs. Pone Kingpetch

Record: 55-7 (22)

Years Active: 1960-1970

World Titles: Flyweight*, Bantamweight*

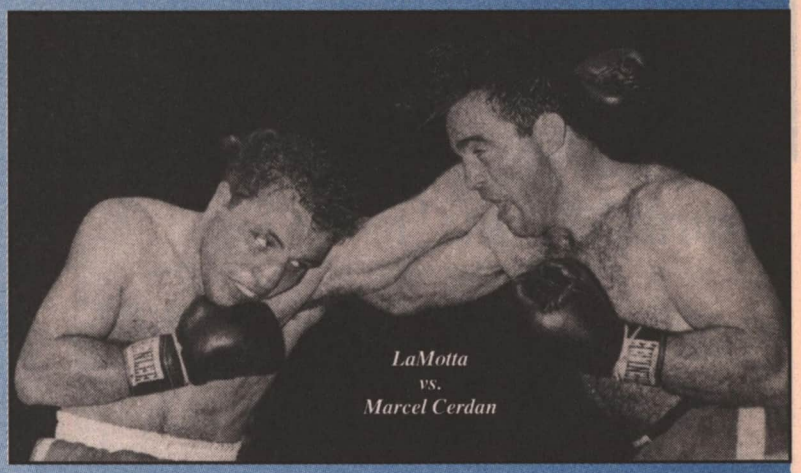
Quality of Competition: 8

Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 1

Why He's Here: Robbed of the featherweight title, he should have been a three-division champ

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Fought Johnny Famechon for the first time anywhere but Sydney

28. JAKE LaMOTTA



LaMotta vs. Marcel Cerdan

Record: 83-19-4 (30)

Years Active: 1941-1954

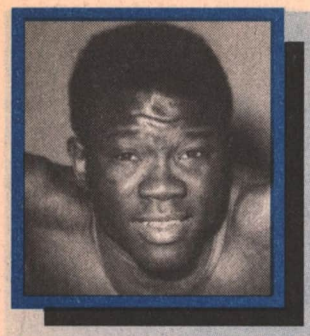
World Titles: Middleweight*

Quality of Competition: 10

Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 1

Why He's Here: He was willing to tackle the best black fighters of his era. And he beat Sugar Ray Robinson when no one else could

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Ducked Sugar Ray when he was champ



29. EMILE GRIFFITH

Griffith vs. Nino Benvenuti

Record: 85-24-2 (23) with 1 no-contest

Years Active: 1958-1977

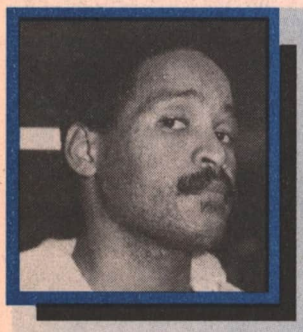
World Titles: Welterweight*, Junior Middleweight, Middleweight*

Quality of Competition: 10

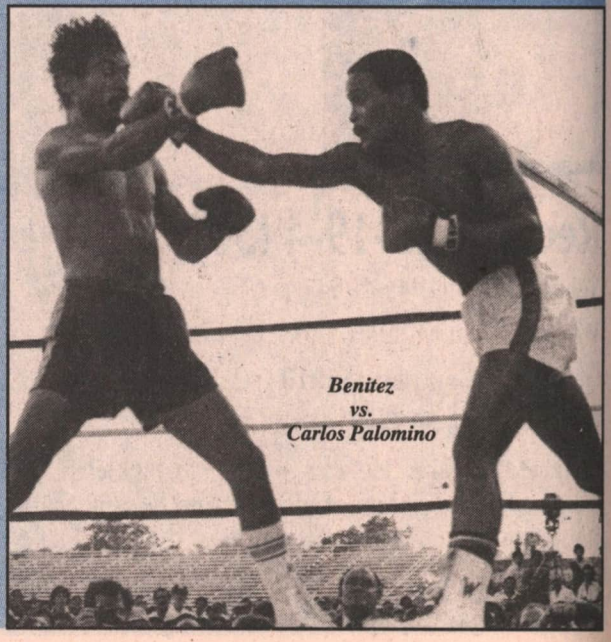
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 4

Why He's Here: Without much of a punch, he was a great fighter in two divisions

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Fought Carlos Monzon somewhere other than Buenos Aires and Monte Carlo



30. WILFRED BENITEZ



Benitez vs. Carlos Palomino

Record: 53-8-1 (31)

Years Active: 1973-1990

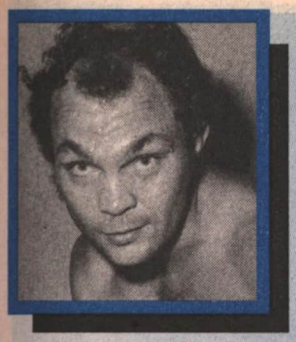
World Titles: Junior Welterweight, Welterweight, Junior Middleweight

Quality of Competition: 10

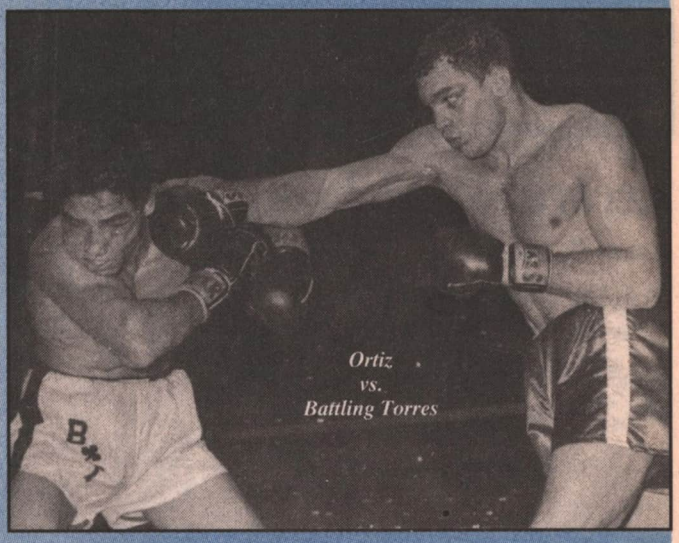
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 4

Why He's Here: At age 17, he was better than almost anyone else in the world

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Outpointed Sugar Ray Leonard or Thomas Hearns



31. CARLOS ORTIZ



Ortiz vs. Battling Torres

Record: 61-7-1 (30) with 1 no-contest

Years Active: 1955-1972

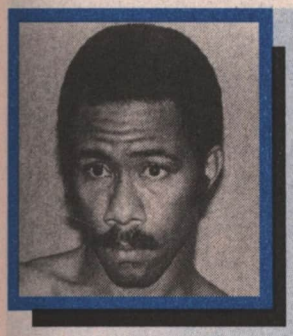
World Titles: Lightweight*, Junior Welterweight*

Quality of Competition: 9

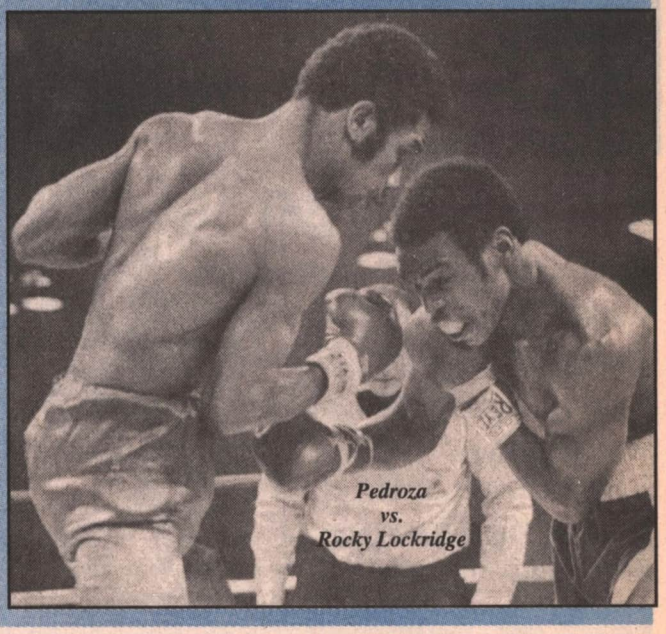
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 1

Why He's Here: At his best, he was a complete fighting machine

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Taken better care of himself during his prime



32. EUSEBIO PEDROZA



Pedroza vs. Rocky Lockridge

Record: 42-6-1 (25)

Years Active: 1973-1986; 1992

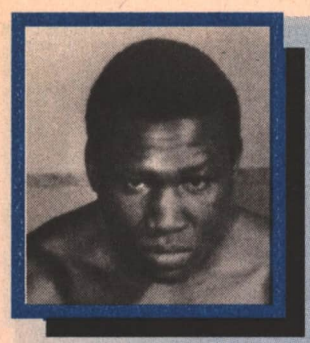
World Titles: Featherweight

Quality of Competition: 7

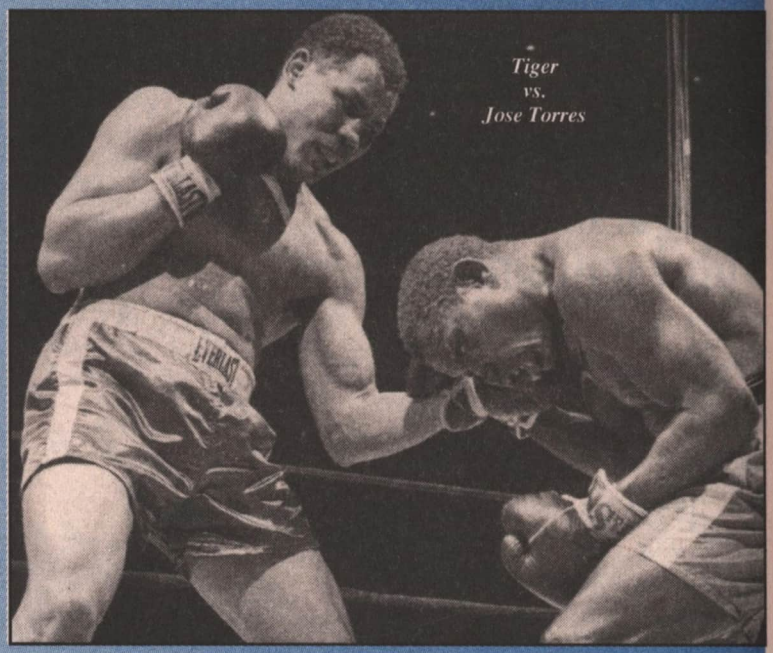
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 1

Why He's Here: Unparalleled skills and savvy, which he displayed mostly on the road

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Outboxed Salvador Sanchez in a unification bout



33. DICK TIGER



Tiger vs. Jose Torres

Record: 61-17-3 (26)

Years Active: 1952-1970

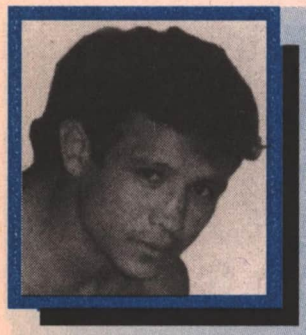
World Titles: Middleweight*, Light Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 9

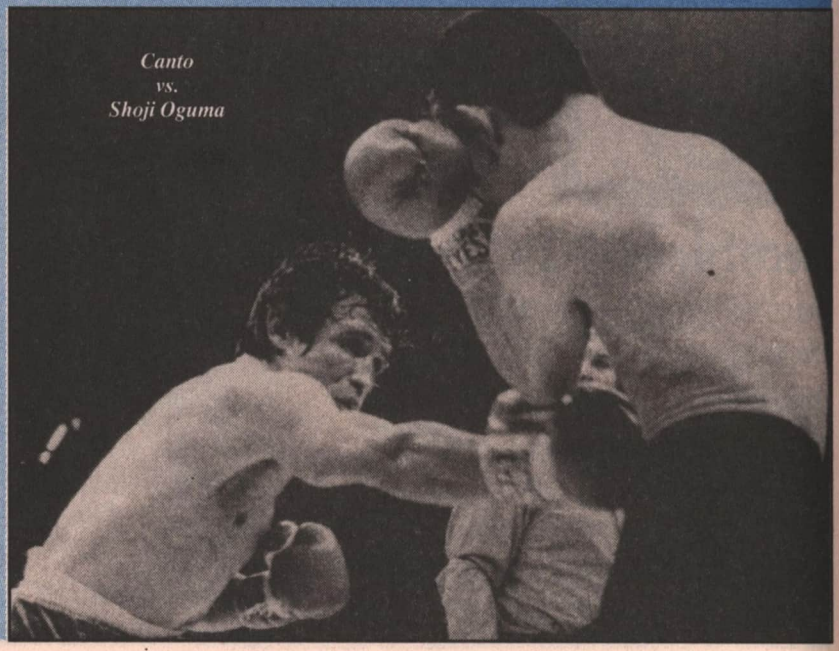
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 4

Why He's Here: He won two titles the hard way

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Ducked Bob Foster, or at least ducked when Foster threw that left hook



34. MIGUEL CANTO



Canto vs. Shoji Oguma

Record: 61-9-4 (15)

Years Active: 1969-1982

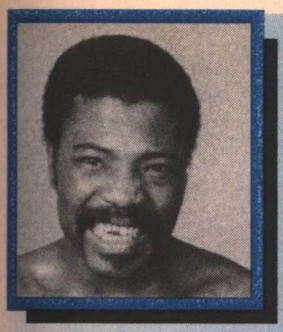
World Titles: Flyweight

Quality of Competition: 6

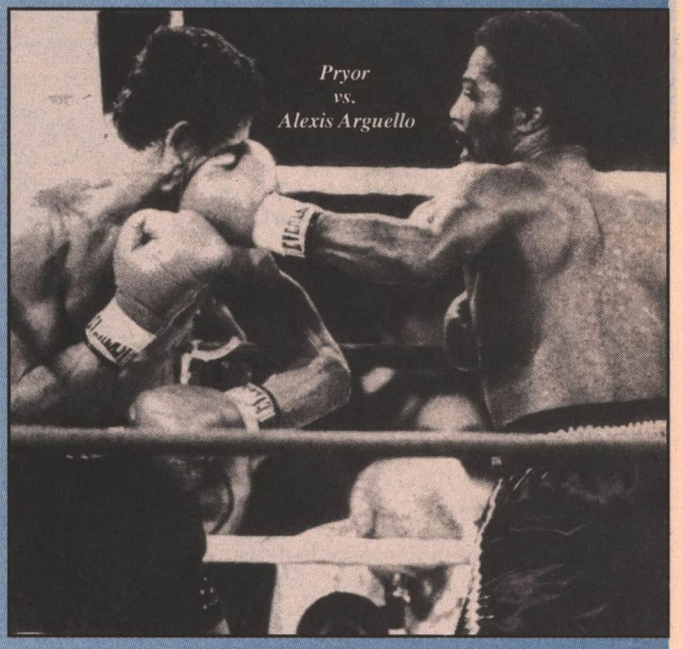
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 0

Why He's Here: He proved defense is as important as offense

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Unified the title



35. AARON PRYOR



Pryor vs. Alexis Arguello

Record: 39-1 (35)

Years Active: 1976-1985; 1987; 1990

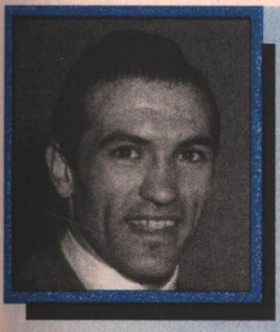
World Titles: Junior Welterweight

Quality of Competition: 7

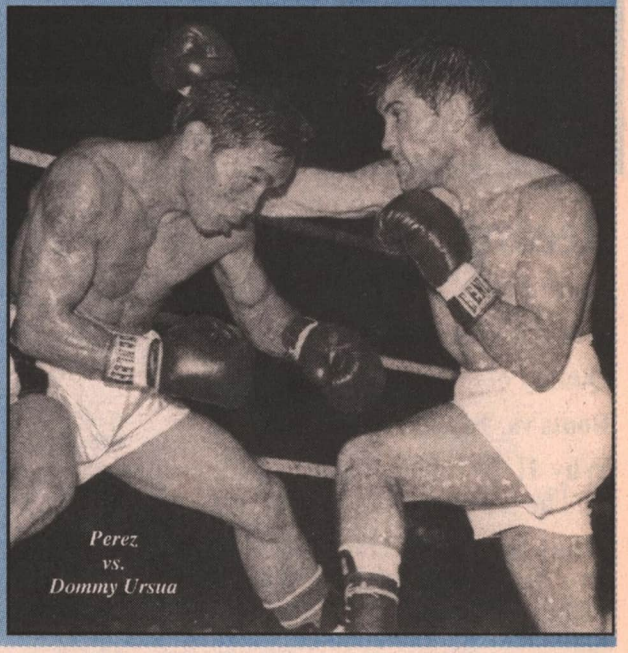
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: "The Hawk" fought with an intensity unmatched even by the other greats of the early-'80s

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Just said no



36. PASCUAL PEREZ



Perez vs. Dommy Ursua

Record: 83-7-1 (56)

Years Active: 1952-1964

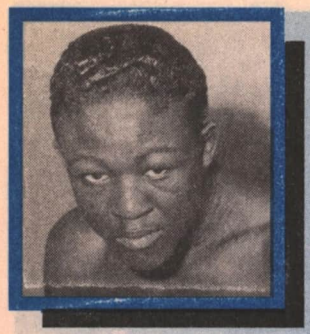
World Titles: Flyweight*

Quality of Competition: 6

Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 0

Why He's Here: Unbeaten in first 51 fights; dominated division in '50s

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Worn elevator shoes; at 5', he wasn't going to win the bantamweight title



37. KID GAVILAN

Record: 107-30-6 (28)

Years Active: 1943-1958

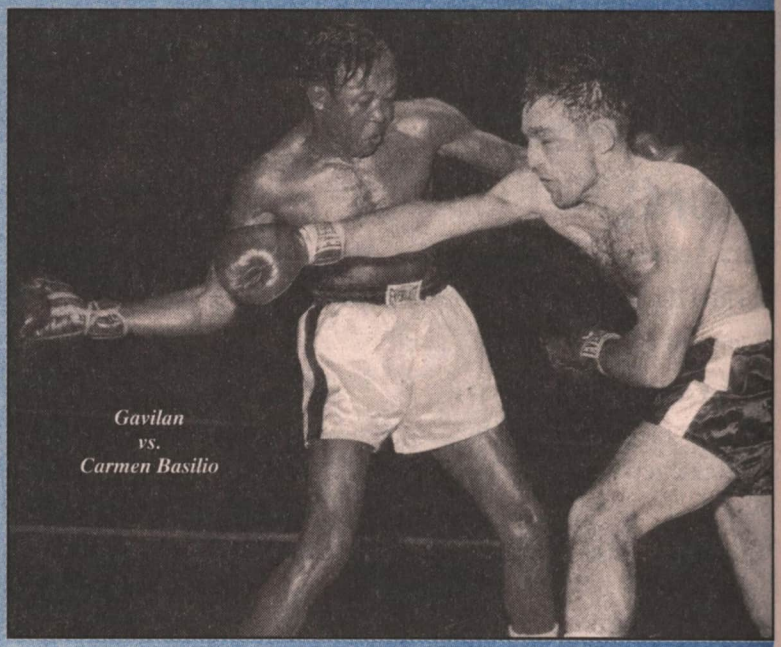
World Titles: Welterweight*

Quality of Competition: 10

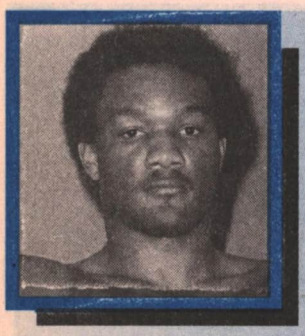
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: Style, stamina, chin, and quality of competition

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Avoided Sugar Ray Robinson



Gavilan vs. Carmen Basilio



38. GEORGE FOREMAN

Record: 74-4 (68)

Years Active: 1969-1977; 1987-present

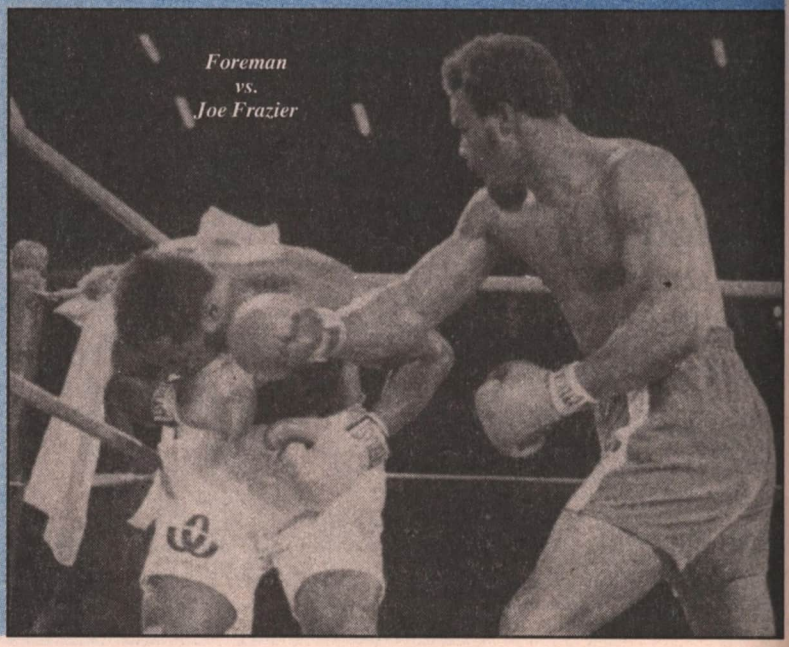
World Titles: Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 9

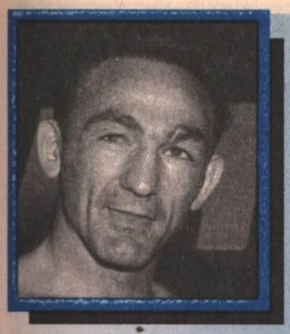
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: Because he's history. And he can punch a bit, too

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Lost his plane ticket to Zaire



Foreman vs. Joe Frazier



39. CARMEN BASILIO

Record: 56-16-7 (27)

Years Active: 1948-1961

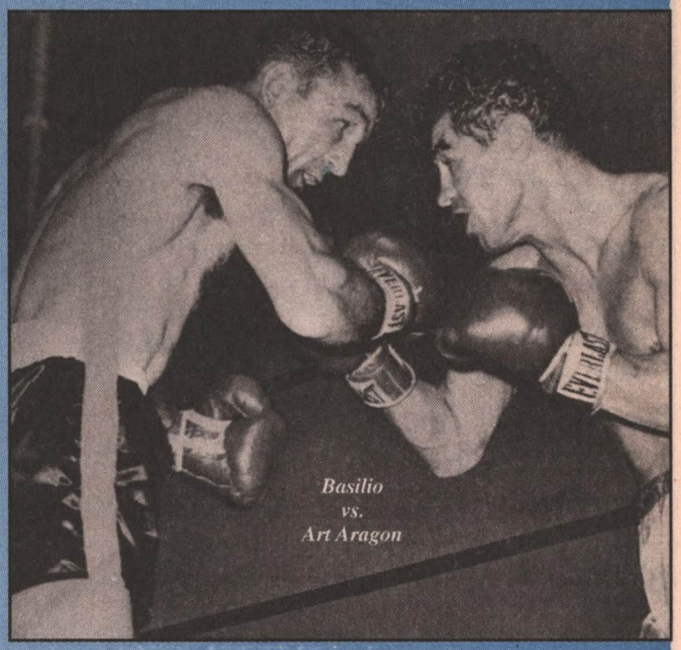
World Titles: Welterweight*, Middleweight*

Quality of Competition: 9

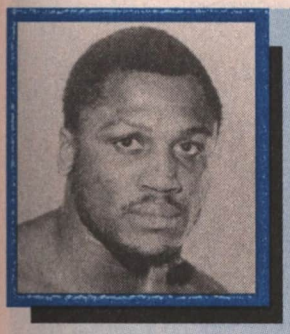
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: A two-division champ, and he had to beat Sugar Ray Robinson to do it

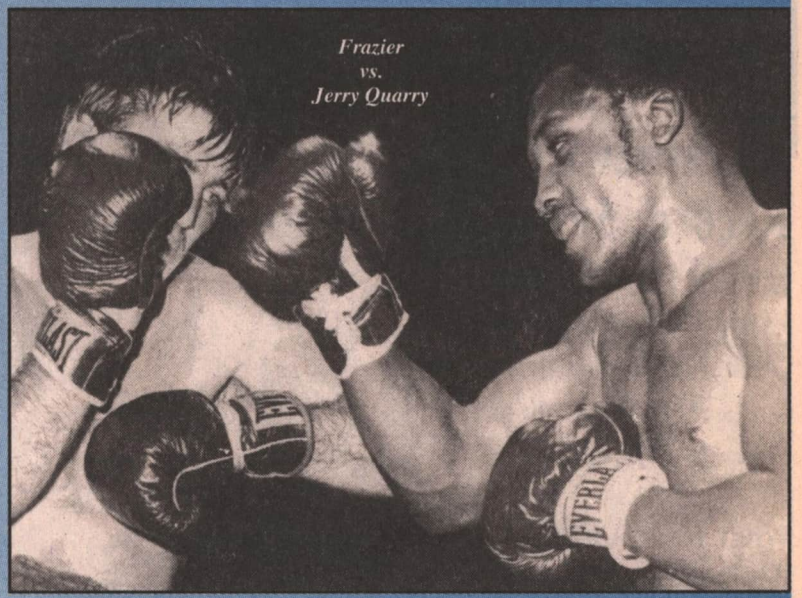
What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Stayed out of Chicago



Basilio vs. Art Aragon



40. JOE FRAZIER



Frazier vs. Jerry Quarry

Record: 32-4-1 (27)

Years Active: 1965-1976; 1981

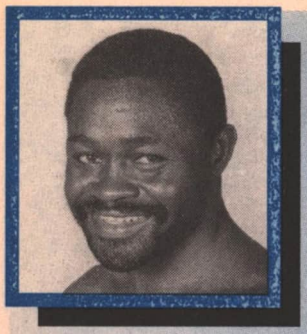
World Titles: Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 10

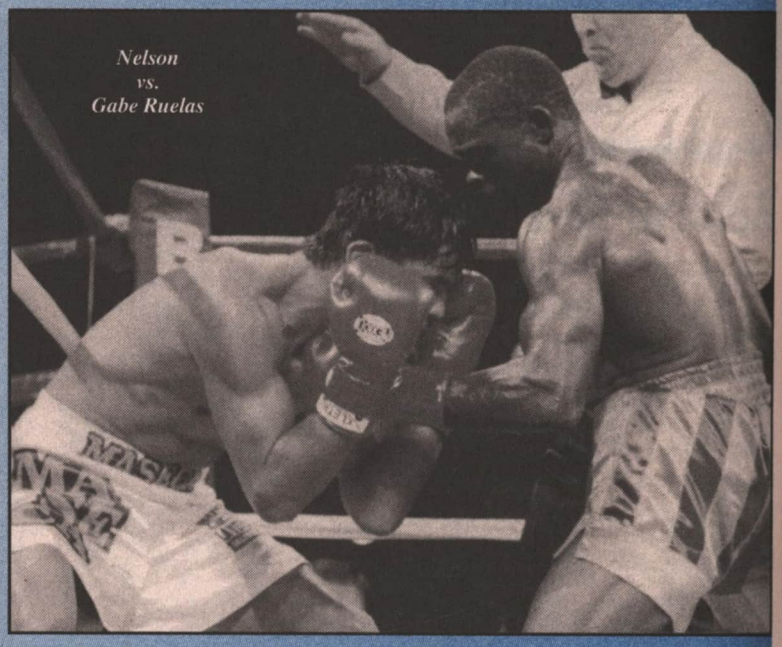
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: He won the biggest bout in boxing history

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Defended against George Foreman in Zaire



41. AZUMAH NELSON



Nelson vs. Gabe Ruelas

Record: 38-3-2 (27)

Years Active: 1979-present

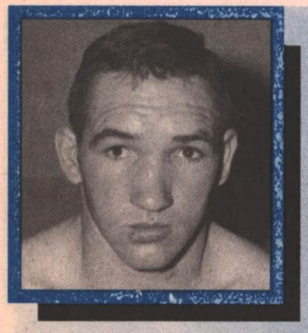
World Titles: Featherweight, Junior Lightweight

Quality of Competition: 10

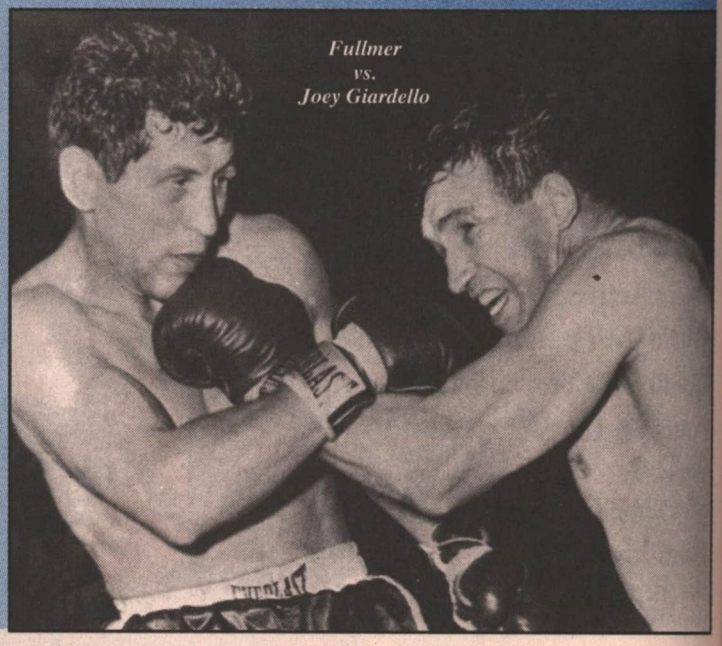
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: If his kayo of Jeff Fenech didn't guarantee him a spot in Canastota, his kayo of Gabe Ruelas sure did

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: He can still do it by winning the lightweight title



42. GENE FULLMER



Fullmer vs. Joey Giardello

Record: 55-6-3 (24)

Years Active: 1951-1963

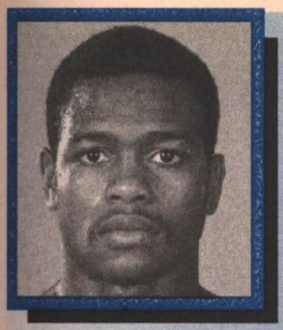
World Titles: Middleweight*

Quality of Competition: 10

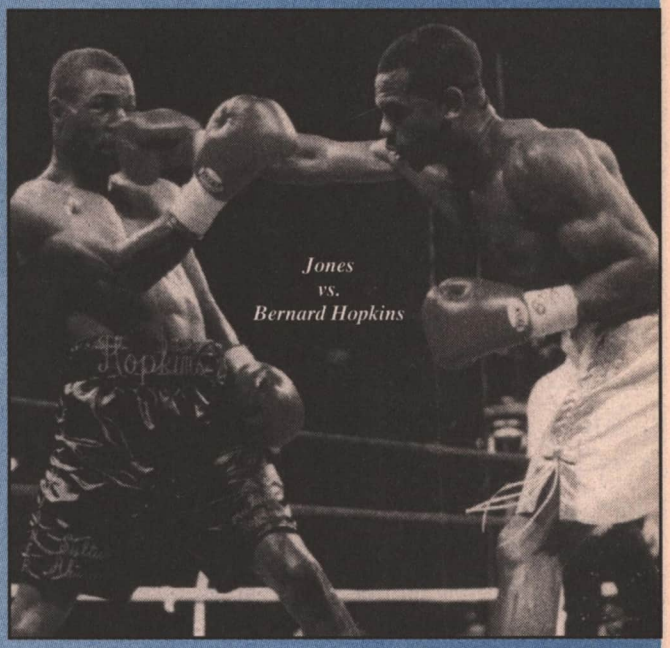
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: He's the poster boy for tough, gritty fighters

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Ducked when Robinson threw "the perfect punch"



43. ROY JONES



Jones vs. Bernard Hopkins

Record: 31-0 (27)

Years Active: 1989-present

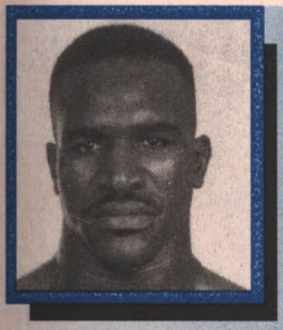
World Titles: Middleweight, Super Middleweight

Quality of Competition: 5

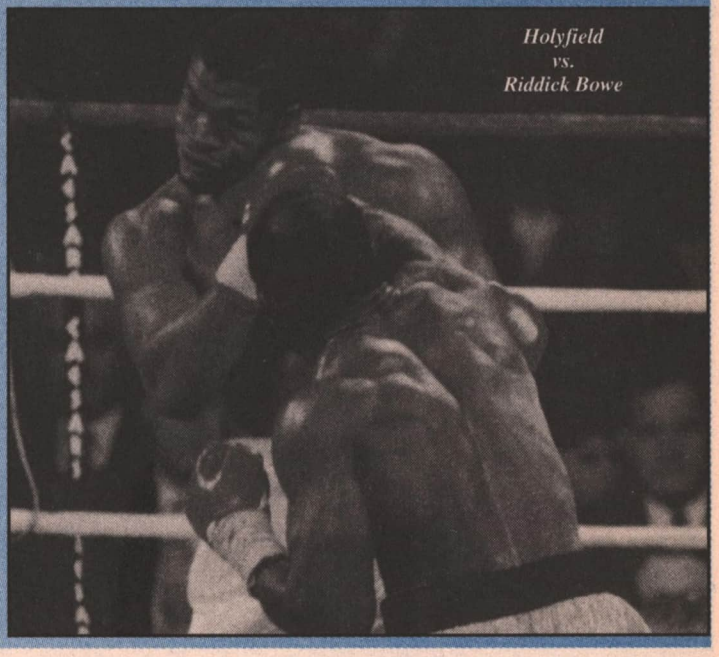
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 0

Why He's Here: He might be one of the greatest ever. A work in progress

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: If an ill-prepared James Toney turns out to be the best competition that's available, there's nothing he can do at all



44. EVANDER HOLYFIELD



Holyfield vs. Riddick Bowe

Record: 31-3 (22)

Years Active: 1984-present

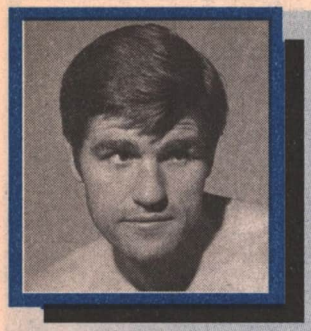
World Titles: Cruiserweight*, Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 7

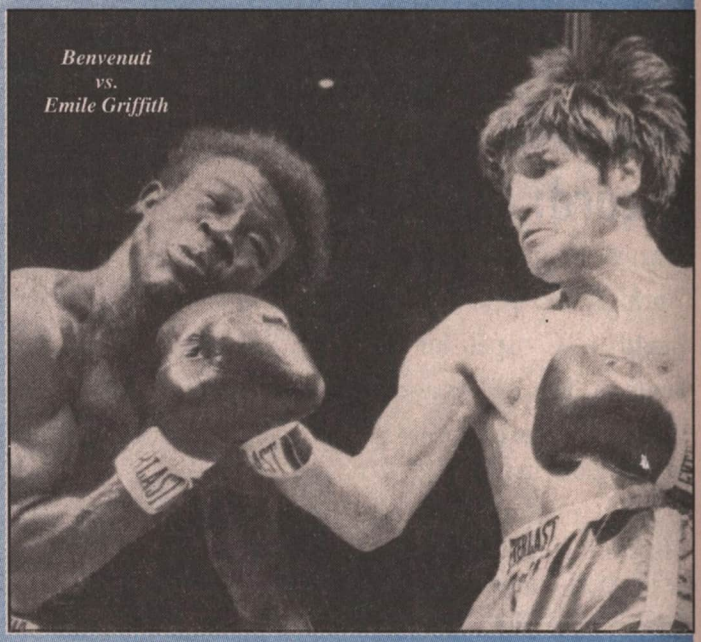
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: He's the ultimate overachiever

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Won the heavyweight title from Mike Tyson, and not Buster Douglas



45. NINO BENVENUTI



Benvenuti vs. Emile Griffith

Record: 82-7-1 (35)

Years Active: 1961-1971

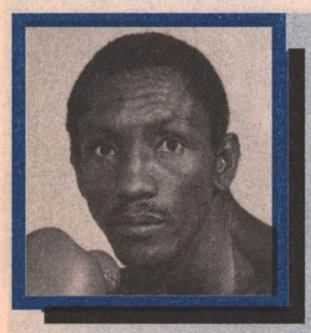
World Titles: Junior Middleweight*, Middleweight*

Quality of Competition: 8

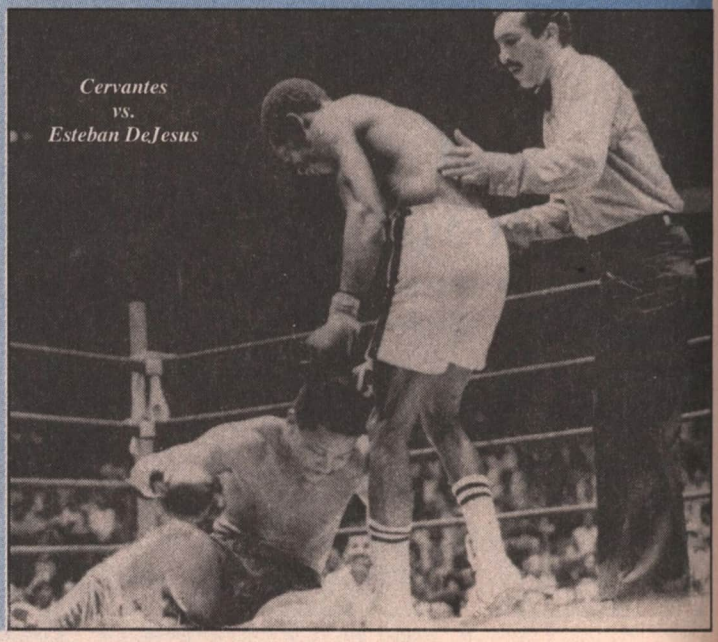
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 3

Why He's Here: Won his first 65 bouts and two titles, and beat Emile Griffith two of three

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Won the middleweight crown earlier in his career. Then he would have missed out on Carlos Monzon



46. ANTONIO CERVANTES



Cervantes vs. Esteban DeJesus

Record: 66-12-1 (37)

Years Active: 1964-1983

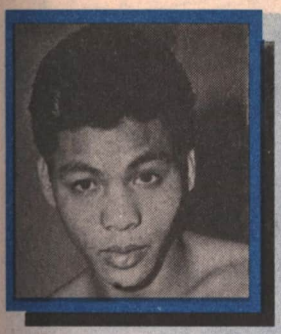
World Titles: Junior Welterweight

Quality of Competition: 7

Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: Dominated division for almost a decade, and did it mostly on road

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Lured lightweight champ Roberto Duran into a title fight



47. FLASH ELORDE

Record: 88-25-2 (34)

Years Active: 1951-1971

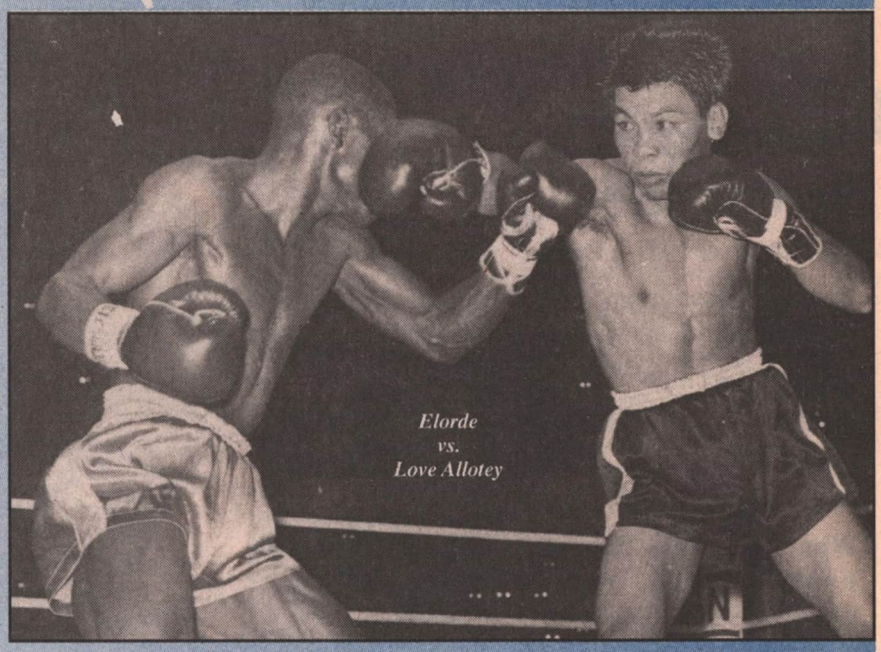
World Titles: Junior Lightweight*

Quality of Competition: 7

Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 2

Why He's Here: Kept title for seven years

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Beaten Sandy Saddler or Carlos Ortiz



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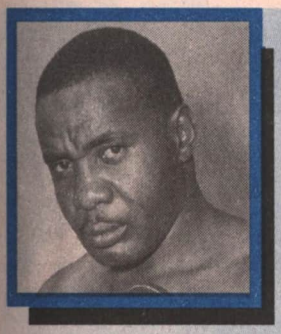


48. SONNY LISTON

Record: 50-4 (39)

Years Active: 1953-1970

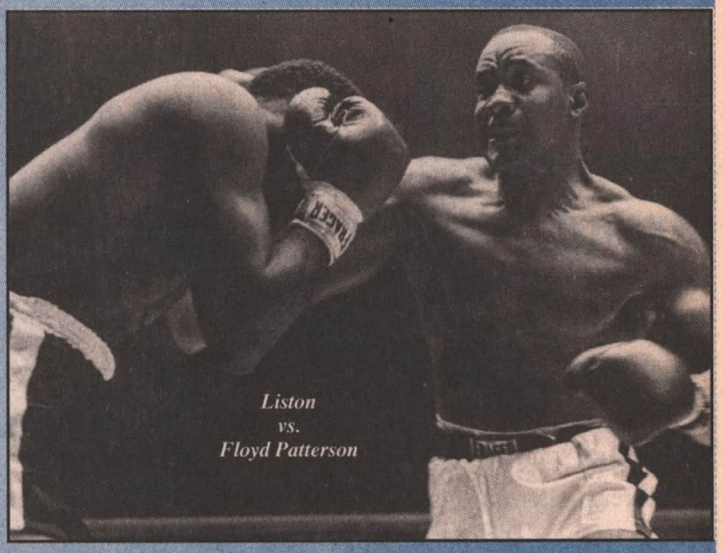
World Titles: Heavyweight*

Quality of Competition: 7

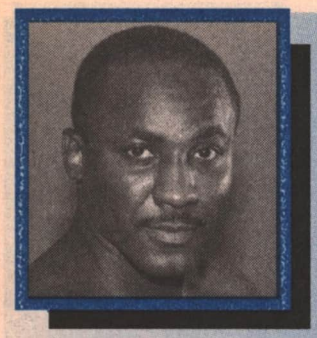
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 1

Why He's Here: The most feared heavyweight in history

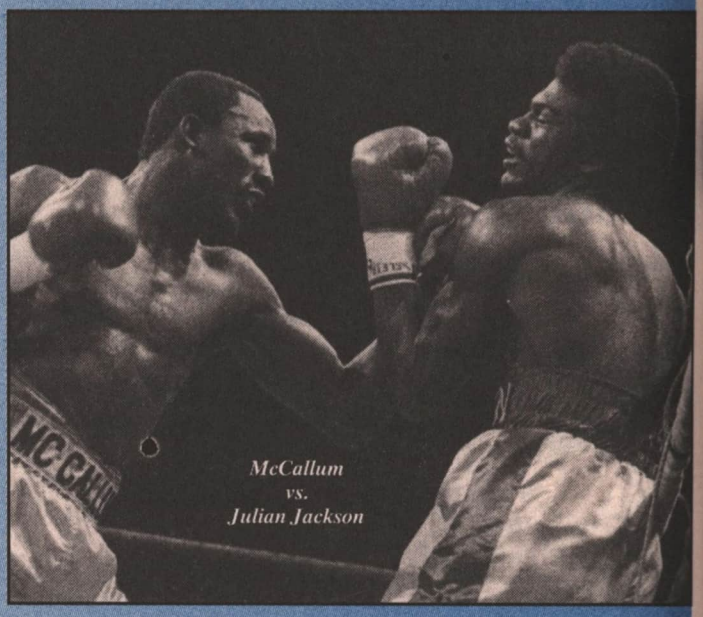
What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Fought for the title four years earlier



Liston vs. Floyd Patterson



49. MIKE McCALLUM



McCallum vs. Julian Jackson

Record: 48-3-1 (36)

Years Active: 1981-present

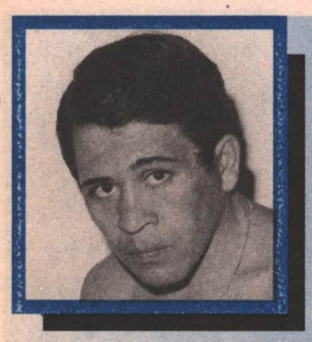
World Titles: Junior Middleweight, Middleweight, Light Heavyweight

Quality of Competition: 7

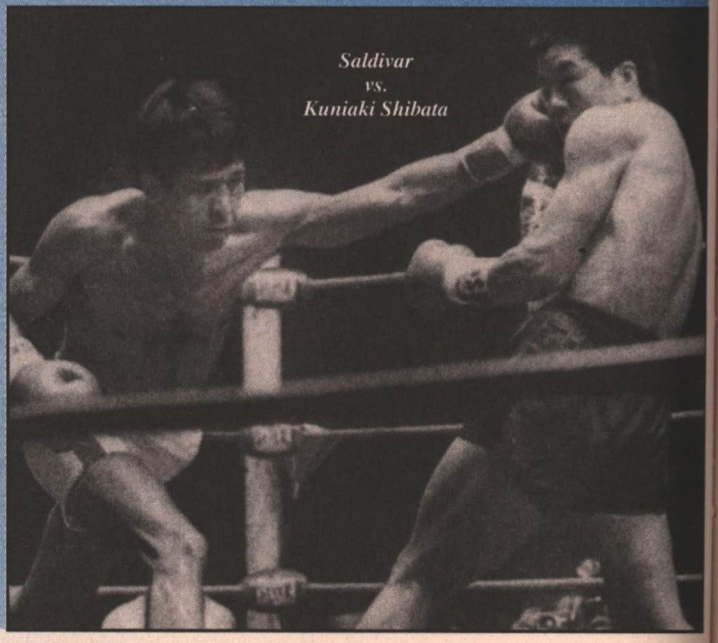
Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 0

Why He's Here: He exudes class and experience during an era that lacks both

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Fought Thomas Hearns, Roberto Duran, or Sugar Ray Leonard



50. VICENTE SALDIVAR



Saldivar vs. Kuniaki Shibata

Record: 38-3 (27)

Years Active: 1961-1967; 1969-1973

World Titles: Featherweight*

Quality of Competition: 7

Bouts vs. Top 50 Fighters: 1

Why He's Here: He regained the title almost three years after retiring

What He Could Have Done To Better His Ranking: Campaigned in a tougher featherweight division

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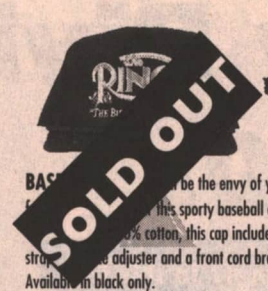

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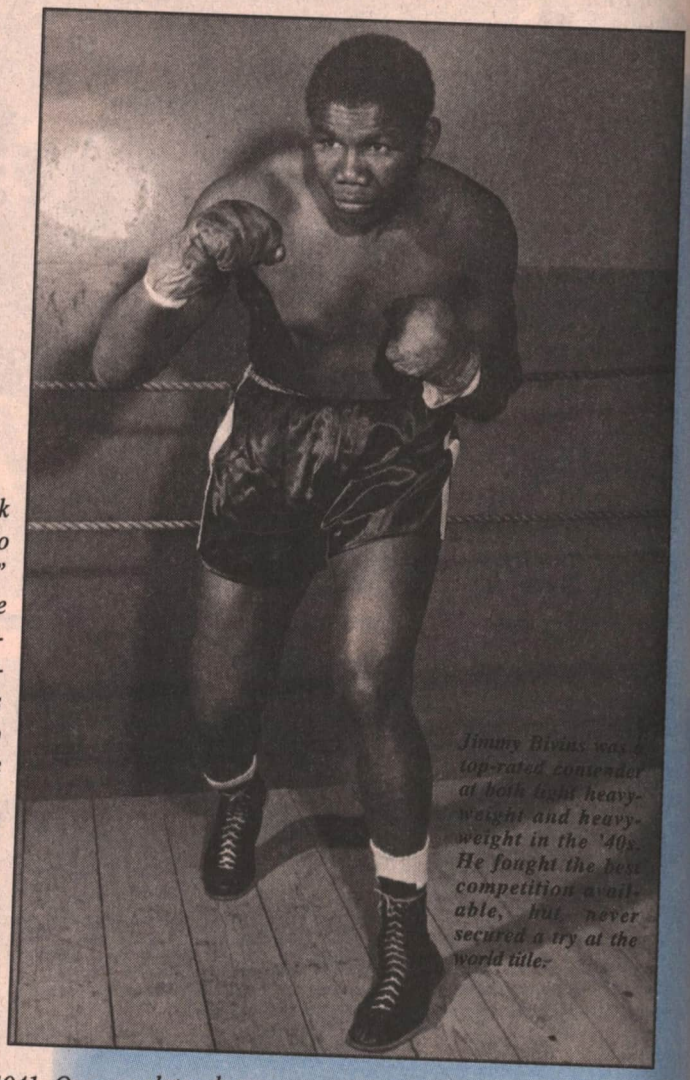
A DECADE TO REMEMBER

Jimmy Bivins Relives The '40s

What was it like to fight the best? In this five-part feature, Robert Cassidy, a frequent contributor to THE RING, interviews one fighter from each of the last five decades.

This month: Jimmy Bivins, a light heavyweight and heavyweight contender in the '40s.



Jimmy Bivins was a top-rated contender at both light heavyweight and heavyweight in the '40s. He fought the best competition available, but never secured a try at the world title.

When you hear a boxing old-timer say, "They don't make 'em like they used to," he might very well be referring to Jimmy Bivins. The sport may never again witness a fighter facing such a high caliber of competition in such a short period of time. In the first five years of Bivins' career (1940-1945), the Cleveland light heavyweight posted a mark of 47-5-1 (17). On the surface, the record is nice, but hardly awe-inspiring. Analyze the opposition, however, and the numbers take on a whole new meaning.

In his first 19 fights as a pro, Bivins decisioned middleweight contenders Nate Bolden and Charley Burley and future light heavyweight champion Anton Christoforidis. He lost a decision to Christoforidis in his 20th bout, then, over the next five years, defeated Teddy Yarosz, Billy Soose, Gus Lesnevich, Joey Maxim, Tami Mauriello, Lee Savold, Bob Pastor, Ezzard Charles, Lloyd Marshall, Melio Bettina, and Archie Moore. Among the lesser known, but still world-rated, opponents he beat during that stretch were Buddy Scott, Curtis Sheppard, and Watson Jones.

From June 22, 1942, to February 25, 1946, Bivins went unbeaten in 26 consecutive bouts.

"I don't think there's anything so special about me," said Bivins, whose modesty is as boggling as it is refreshing. "It was just my night to win some of those fights."

In the year-end ratings that were printed annually in ***The Ring Record Book And Encyclopedia,*** *Bivins debuted in the light heavyweight top 10 in 1941. One year later, he was ranked first at both light heavyweight and heavyweight. Still, there was never a title shot despite the fact that Bivins remained in the heavyweight top 10 for another three years. When world titlist Joe Louis was campaigning in the armed forces during World War II, Bivins was known as the interim champion. In 1955, he retired with a record of 86-25-1 (31). He met seven Hall of Famers, beating four, and fought 11 world champions, beating eight.*

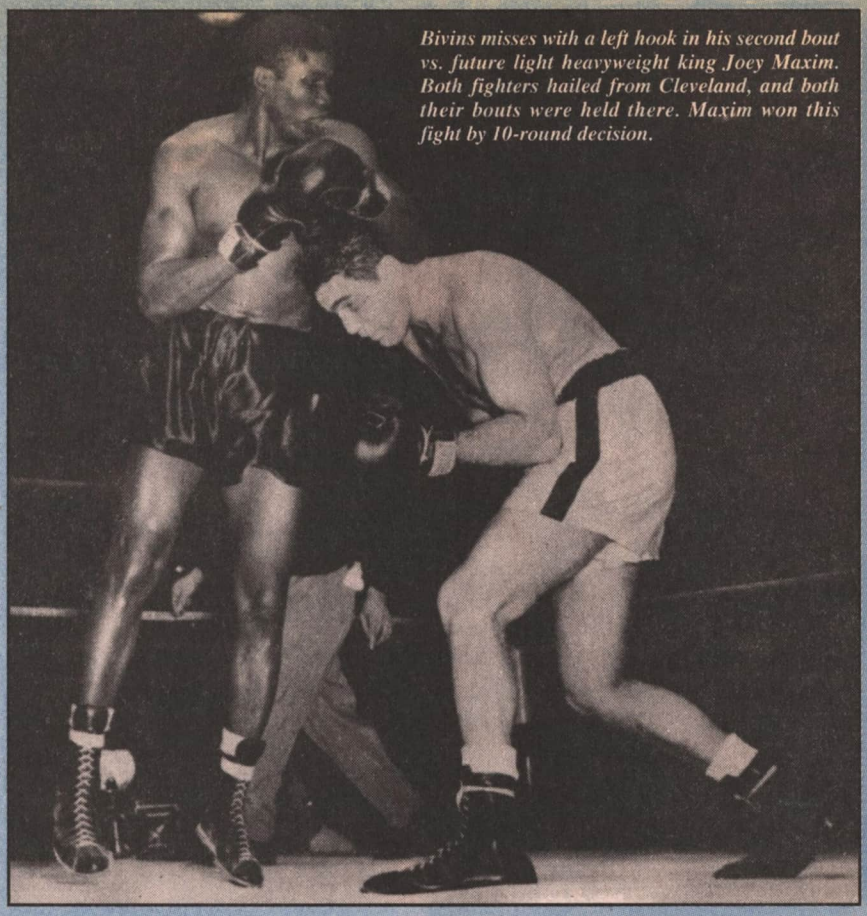
Bivins, 76, still lives in Cleveland and trains amateur fighters at the St. Malachi Church Gym. He has been on the International Boxing Hall of Fame ballot for the last three years, but is still awaiting induction. "I know what I did," said Bivins. "And the people who are living, who saw me, they know what I did. If they want me [in the Hall of Fame], they'll put me in."

On September 3, 1940, Jimmy Bivins outpointed welterweight and middleweight contender **Charley Burley** in Pittsburgh. Bivins entered the fight at 14-0. Burley, then a top middleweight, was 31-4-1 (17).

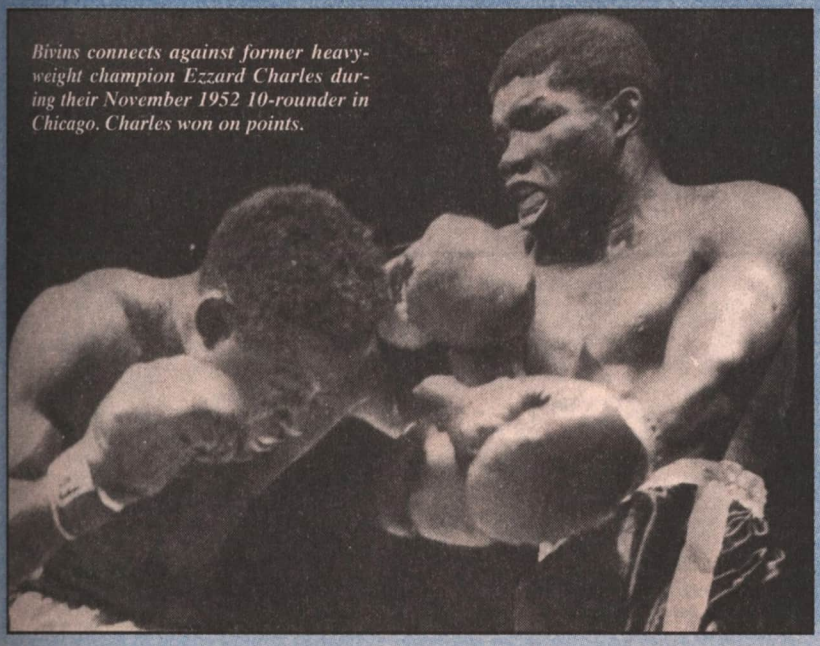
"At the time I fought him, he was raising cain and I was up-and-comer. But I wasn't afraid. He was a known fighter and I fooled him. He was smart, but he didn't take me as a great fighter because I was just coming up. Charley was fast, just as fast I was. I just got in there and outboxed him. I had a good jab and I used it. The fight was in Charley's hometown, but I had to make it my hometown. I couldn't outdo the crowd, but I could outdo my opponent. That's the way I thought. Just because I beat Charley Burley, I couldn't be satisfied. I knew down the lane there would be some fighters just as good."

•Bivins fought world heavyweight champion **Ezzard Charles** five times, though never in a title bout. He won once, and only one of the bouts failed to last the distance. (In 1947, Charles stopped Bivins in four rounds.) The first time they met, on January 7, 1943, in Cleveland, Charles was a light heavyweight with a record of 33-2-1 (21). Bivins was 30-5 (11).

"He came down from Cincinnati and everyone was telling me that he was going to knock me out. He could punch and he was a cutie. He had all kinds of skill. He was a great fighter. He was a great light heavyweight, probably better than he was as a heavyweight. You had to be on the ball when you fought Charles. Every time I jabbed, I kept him on the outside so he couldn't counter or move in on me. When he'd throw a right hand, I'd slip it and throw a hook. I had to keep him off with my jab. I had to keep hitting him to keep him from hitting me."



Bivins misses with a left hook in his second bout vs. future light heavyweight king Joey Maxim. Both fighters hailed from Cleveland, and both their bouts were held there. Maxim won this fight by 10-round decision.



Bivins connects against former heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles during their November 1952 10-rounder in Chicago. Charles won on points.

•Bivins clashed with light heavyweight champion **Archie Moore** on five occasions. Moore captured four of the contests, knocking out Bivins three times. In their first meeting, on August 22, 1945, in Cleveland, Bivins, 46-5-1 (16), knocked out Moore, 82-12-2 (66) with 1 no-contest, in the sixth round. It was only the second time in his career that Moore did not finish a fight.

"Archie knew all the tricks of the trade. I just beat him to the punch. He had a habit of walking in, and when he walked in, I gave it to him. I think it was a right hand. But maybe it was just luck that was with me. I think my countering may have been a little too much for him the first time we fought. But I didn't think I was all that great."

•On February 25, 1946, Bivins faced **Jersey Joe Walcott** in Cleveland. Walcott, 32, was still five years away from winning the world heavyweight title. Bivins was 24.

"Jersey Joe was slick. He'd come to you, then he'd turn and walk away, and you'd think he was going away. But he was just shifting his weight and—*boom!*—he'd hit you. He did that to me

(Continued on page 74)

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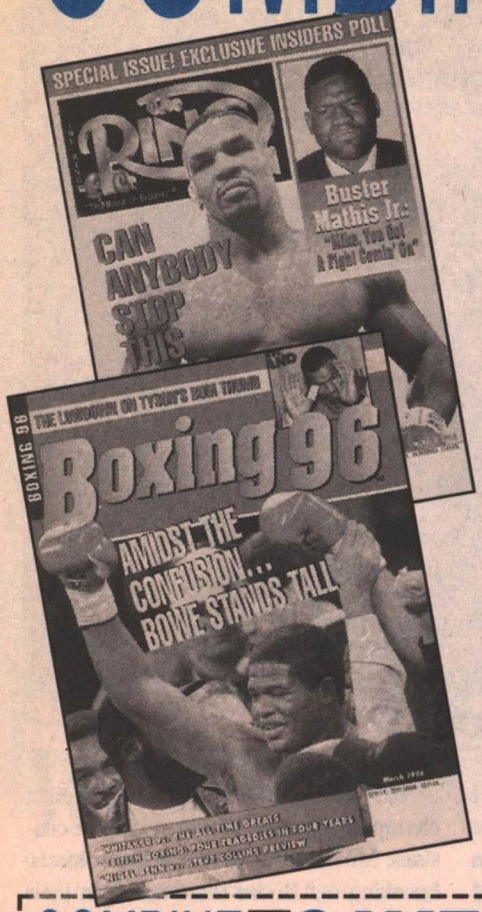

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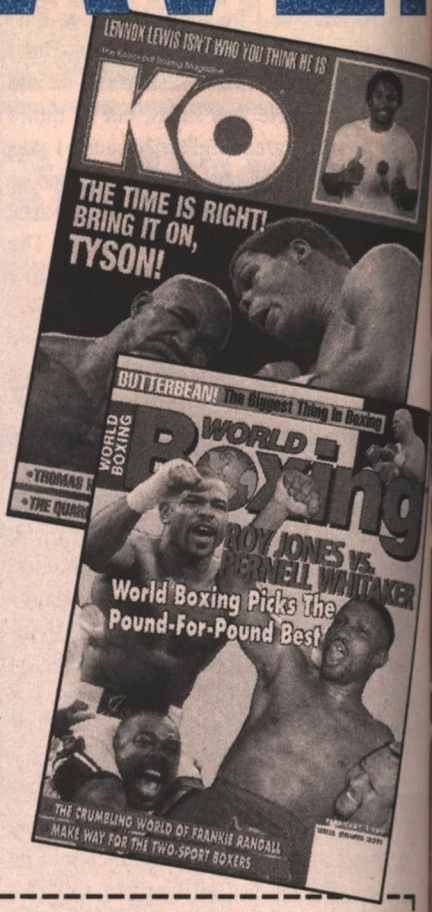

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NEW FACES

VERNON FORREST

Junior Welterweight

By Geoff Fox

For Vernon Forrest, November 28, 1995, couldn't have been any more perfect. On that night, he faced his sternest test as a pro, Detroit's Marlon "Trouble Man" Thomas, and prevailed. The bout marked Forrest's return to his hometown of Augusta, Georgia, and it was televised on the USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights*, marking his national television debut. Going 12 rounds for the first time, Forrest improved to 15-0 (12).

"I knew he was a tough fighter," Forrest said of Thomas. "But I didn't realize he had a 74-inch reach. The guy could cover up his whole body if he wanted to."

Thomas, 13-31 (8), started slowly, while Forrest swung freely. The local favorite shook Thomas with a right hand in the first round and began stalking his flustered adversary.

After the third round, Thomas emerged from his shell, but he was no match for Forrest's superior strength and hand speed.

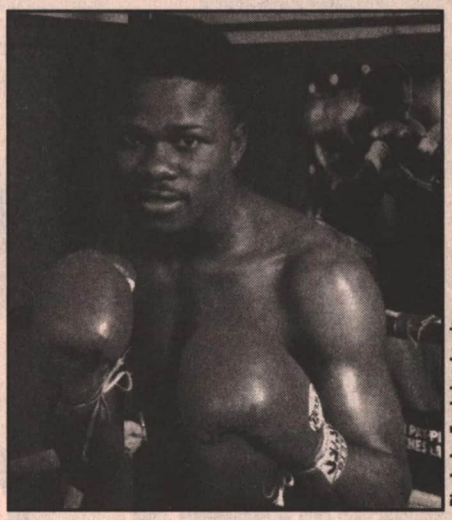


Photo by Fontaine Lewis

In the fifth, Forrest scored a knockdown with a left hook/uppercut, then risked disqualification by taking a swing at his fallen foe. "I would never hit a guy with a cheap shot," he explained. "To me, it didn't look like he was really all the way down. It looked like he was kind of squatting." Referee Mills Lane deducted a point, but as it turned out, it hardly mattered.

There was give-and-take action the rest of the way, with Forrest keeping Thomas at the end of his punches. Unable to establish a consistent offense, Thomas was content to counter when he could. When he grew desperate, he began throwing haymakers. None of them landed, and Forrest won by unanimous decision (scores of 115-111, 116-110, and 117-111).

For a former amateur star who had been fighting pro for three years, it was a coming-out party. No longer would boxing insiders be asking, "Whatever happened to ... "

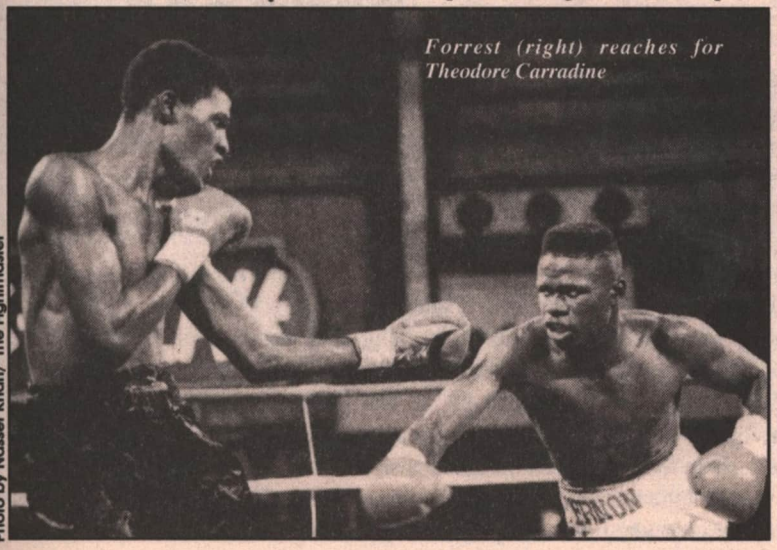
Whether he's fighting in his hometown or hundreds of miles away, the 24-year-old Forrest has a crowd-pleasing style that con-

(Continued on page 74)

PRO RECORD

1992		
Nov. 25	Charles Hawkins, Las Vegas	KO 1
1993		
Jan. 30	Ray Garcia, Las Vegas	KO 1
June 7	Agustine Renteria, Las Vegas	KO 2
July 17	Theodore Carradine, Las Vegas	KO 3
Oct. 20	Eldon Sneeze, Bay St. Louis, MS	KO 1
Dec. 18	Lamont Johnson, Stateline, NV	KO 1
1994		
Feb. 5	Elvesto Mills, Las Vegas	W 6
Nov. 5	Randy Archuleta, Stateline, NV	KO 1
1995		
Jan. 25	Carlos Cartagena, Atlantic City	W 6
March 4	Genaro Andujar, Boston	KO 1
April 18	Desi Ford, Las Vegas	KO 4
July 15	Julian Romero, Stateline	KO 2
Sept. 12	Roberto Chala, Biloxi, MS	KO 3
Nov. 3	Jesus Mayorga, Las Vegas	KO 1
Nov. 28	Marlon Thomas, Augusta, GA	W 12

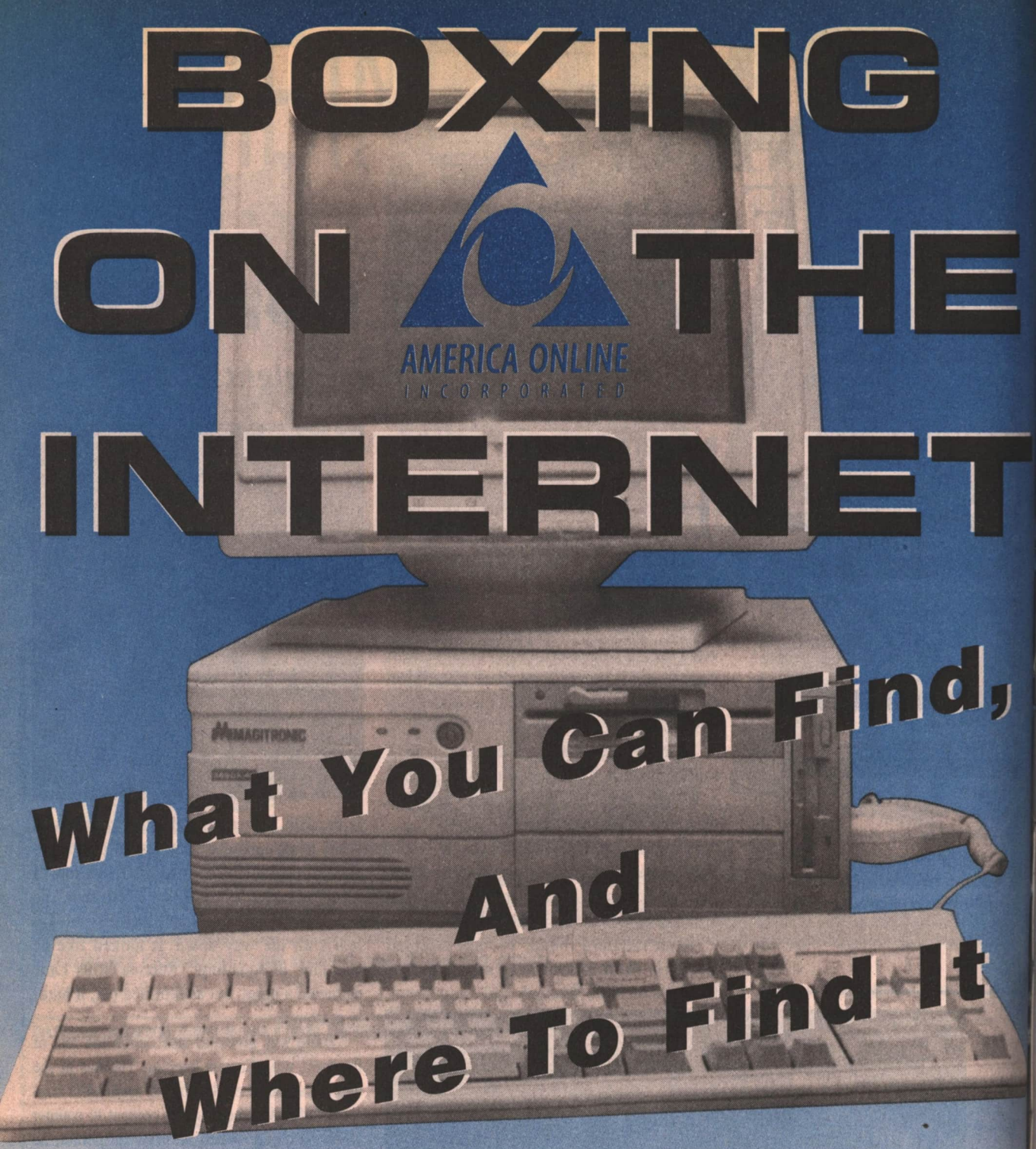
FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
15	15	0	0	12



Forrest (right) reaches for Theodore Carradine

Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

BOXING ON THE INTERNET



What You Can Find, And Where To Find It

By Jim Trunzo

As any hard-core boxing fan knows, getting current information about the fistic scene can be a difficult task. Local newspapers seldom pay attention to any story that doesn't include Mike Tyson's name, and results, schedules, and rankings are usually hidden in agate type somewhere at the bottom of a page—if they're there at all. But fight fanatics no longer need despair. Just about anything you'd want to know about the state of the game can be found in an instant. All one needs is a computer and a modem. Thanks to modern technology, communication services, and the Internet, the world of boxing is only a few keystrokes away.

The two methods of extracting information via your personal home computer are by using one of the major on-line services, like CompuServe, America Online, and Prodigy, or by logging directly onto the Internet. The difference between the two can best be understood in terms of shopping. The major on-line services are like a huge mall, with many different stores con-

veniently located under one roof. The Internet, on the other hand, is like a huge, sprawling world bazaar made up of every type of specialty shop imaginable, but you have to search them out individually because they're all at different locations. Both, however, have a lot to offer boxing aficionados.

The on-line services are quite similar. Using America Online as an example, here's what you can expect to find: After accessing the general sports area on AOL, a list of individual sports becomes available. Selecting boxing takes you to a menu of choices that range from up-to-date fight schedules, to lists of recent results and current champions by division, to individual articles on specific events in boxing. "Funeral Services For Dan Duva", "Bugner May Return To British Boxing", and "Konadu Dethrones Veeraphol For WBA Title" were three of the articles recently found in the boxing area. The amount of text varies from three paragraphs to three pages per article. All of the material can be saved to your computer's hard drive or sent immediately to a printer so that you have a permanent hard copy.

America Online also offers an area entitled The Grandstand (other services have comparable sites), where boxing fans can access a variety of boxing-related services. In The Grandstand, for example, users can go into the Boxing Library and download newsletters, photos, demos of boxing games, and more.

The main feature found in The Grandstand is the Message Board, where fans can communicate electronically by creating and responding to any topic. Each topic created is assigned a folder, and anyone who opens the folder can add his two cents.

The popularity of the Message Board is illustrated by the numbers. As of this writing, there are 46 folders containing 4,766 messages. To give you an idea of the breadth of the topics available, here's a small sampling of existing folders:

•Axel Schulz: Fight fans argue about the relative merits of this seemingly luckless fighter. Lots of trashing his boring style and lack of punch.

•Holyfield GO AWAY!: Dozens of fans voice their opinions on whether or not "The Real Deal" should keep fighting.

•Fox Sports Using Don King Productions: A hot folder debating whether or not Fox should be praised or panned for using Don King to stage its fight cards.

•All-Time Exciting Fighters: Nowhere is the difference between the old-timers and newcomers more obvious than in this folder. Names like Joe Frazier and Ruben Olivares dominate some lists, while others include nothing but active fighters.

•How Good Was Sugar Ray Robinson, Really?: Hot and heavy debates about Robinson in relationship to Greb, Hagler, and Monzon; about whether or not he was the best middleweight of all-time, or merely the best welterweight. Young fans want to know if he could have taken Pernell Whitaker!

Other folders deal with trivia, dream fights, memorabilia, fights on VHS for sale, and just about anything else you can think of. And if a topic isn't there, you can create your own folder. Guaranteed, you'll get a dozen responses in no time at all. However, a word of warning: If you're thin-skinned, don't get involved with the message board. Contributors are highly opinionated, and while they'll be quick to tell you how smart you are when they agree with you, they're even quicker to let you know the depths of your stupidity when they don't.

Most of the major services also offer two other important features. The first is a live chat night. This is a weekly hour or two set aside at a special on-line location where you can take part in live conversations. You type in your comments, see them appear on your computer screen, watch as others respond to them, and counter their arguments, all in real time. It's like being in a huge debating room, fighting for a chance to be heard. It's usually both stimulating and entertaining—and always provocative.

The second feature is a list of Web Links. These links take you directly to specific World Wide Web sites, which leads us to the second and largest area of electronic boxing information, the Internet.

•••

The Internet is difficult to explain. Its scope is virtually limitless, and access to anywhere in the world that has an Internet address is only a few electronic signals away. As soon as the data that you want to retrieve is found, it shows up on your computer screen ready to be read, saved, printed, and savored.

The number of boxing locations and the wealth of material available via the Internet and the World Wide Web dwarfs that found on most services. However, you have to go to each different location to sample what's offered. This isn't intended to be a primer on how to access the Internet. That said, finding boxing information is a five-step process:

1) Subscribe to a server who acts as a sort of middle-man. The server will link your computer to the Internet.

2) Obtain the special software that provides you with a graphic front end. This will allow you to easily navigate the virtual world of cyberspace.

(Continued on page 78)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Oliver McCall KO 1 Oleg Maskaev
Orlin Norris KO 6 Cleveland Woods
Orlin Norris W 10 Tony Tucker
Jeremy Williams KO 1 Samson Cohen
Alex Stewart KO 6 Bryant Smith
James Thunder KO 7 Will Hinton
Buster Mathis Jr. KO 4 Kenny Smith
Andrew Golota KO 2 Charles Hostetter
Kirk Johnson KO 1 Art Baylis
Derrick Roddy KO 2 Ricardo Kennedy
Aahmad Abdin W 10 James Gaines
Joe Bugner KO 3 West Turner
Alonzo Highsmith KO 2 Gary Butler
Butterbean KO 2 Tim Ray
Butterbean KO 4 Joe Wiggins

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Adolpho Washington W 10
Artis Pendergrass
Torsten May W 8 Bobbi Joe Edwards
Terry Dunston W 12 Dennis Andries
Chris Okoh KO 2 Darren Westover
Brian LaSpada KO 10 James Heath
Jacob Mofokeng KO 9 Brian Hermann
Johnny Nelson KO 2 Tony Booth
Chris Okoh KO 2 Darren Westover
Dale Brown W 10 Derrell Banks
Iran Barkley KO 1 James Baker

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Henry Maske W 12 Duran Williams
(Retains IBF Title)
William Guthrie KO 2 Jerome Hill
Eddy Smulders W Disq. 2 Andrea Magi
Ole Klemetsen KO 2 Lenzie Morgan
Asluddin Umarov KO 5 Thomas Reid
Akim Tafer W 8 Valery Vikhor

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Darrin Allen KO 10 Frankie Edmunson
Roberto Duran W 10 Ray Domenge
Joe Calzaghe KO 1 Guy Stanford
Lupe Aquino W 10 Jose Castaneo

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Dana Rosenblatt KO 3 Pat Lawlor
Lonnie Bradley KO 2 Randy Smith
Richie Woodhall KO 10 Derek Wormald
William Joppy KO 2 Dave Boone
Rodney Toney KO 3 Armando Campos
Troy Waters KO 4 Lemark Davis
Ron Morgan W 10 Bo James

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Terry Norris KO 8 Vincent Pettway
(Retains WBC & IBF Titles)
Carl Daniels KO 6 Tim Dendy
Raul Marquez KO 6 Rocky McCray
Santiago Sarmaniego KO 2 Arthur Allen
Godfrey Nyakana KO 1 Nelson Echevarria
Donovan Boucher KO 5 Desi Ford

WELTERWEIGHTS
Ike Quartey KO 4 Jorge Ramirez Aquino
(Non-Title Bout)
Felix Trinidad KO 4 Rodney Moore
(Retains IBF Title)
Ray Oliveira KO 3 Eduardo Jimenez
Adrian Stone KO 1 Darryl Lattimore
James Page W 10 Ross Thompson
Joey Gamache KO 4 Tim Payton
Lewis Veader W 10 Luis Maysonet
Jaime Lerna KO 10 William Magahin
Kevin Lueshing KO 3 Chris Saunders

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 2 Scott Walker
(Non-Title Bout)
Oscar De La Hoya KO 2 Darryl Tyson
David Kamau Tech. Draw 2 Tommy Valdez
Bolillo Gonzalez KO 1 Silverio Flores
Hector Lopez W 10 Ener Julio
Sharmba Mitchell KO 1 Harold Bennett
Jonathan Thaxton KO 1 Paul Ryan

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Philip Holiday KO 10 John Lark
(Retains IBF Title)
Steve Johnston W 12 Mark Fernandez
Leavander Johnson W 10 Jose Manjarrez
George Scott KO 1 Shane Gannon

Billy Irwin W 10 Juan Luis Sanchez
Tiger Martinez KO 5 Gilberto Espinal
Jorge Paez KO 5 Paris Alexander
Carlos Rubio W 8 Rudy Zavala

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Anatoly Alexandrov W 12 Djamel Lifa
Julien Lorcy W 8 Juan Polo-Perez
Colin McMillan KO 4 Justin Murphy
Goyo Vargas W 10 Luis Montes

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Kevin Kelley W 12 Louie Espinoza

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Marco Antonio Barrera KO 12 Kennedy McKinney
Erik Morales KO 11 Rudy Bradley
Jesse Magana W 12 Freddy Cruz
Jorge Eliecer Julio KO 3 Jose Morales
Nestor Garza KO 3 Julio Cesar Cardona
Aristead Clayton KO 10 Eddie Rangel
Richie Wenton W 12 Wilson Docherty

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Victor Rabanales KO 4 Alejandro Sanabria
Daniel Jimenez W 12 Drew Docherty
Daorung MP Petroleum KO 5 Ricky Ingalla
Tim Austin KO 1 Mike Espinoza
John Michael Johnson W 10 Lazaro Padillo

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Alimi Goitia KO 12 Hyung Chul Lee
(Retains WBA Title)
Carlos Salazar KO 6 Antonello Melis
(Retains IBF Title)
Johnny Tapia KO 2 Giovanno Andrade
Isaias Zamudio KO 7 Armando Diaz

FLYWEIGHTS
Yuri Arbachakov W 12 Raul Juarez
(Retains WBC Title)
Chatchai Elite-Gym KO 3 Joel Nice
Luigi Camputaro KO 3 Pedro Guerra

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Saman Sorjaturong KO 4 Antonio Perez
(Retains WBC Title)
Shiro Yahiro W 12 Ric Magramo

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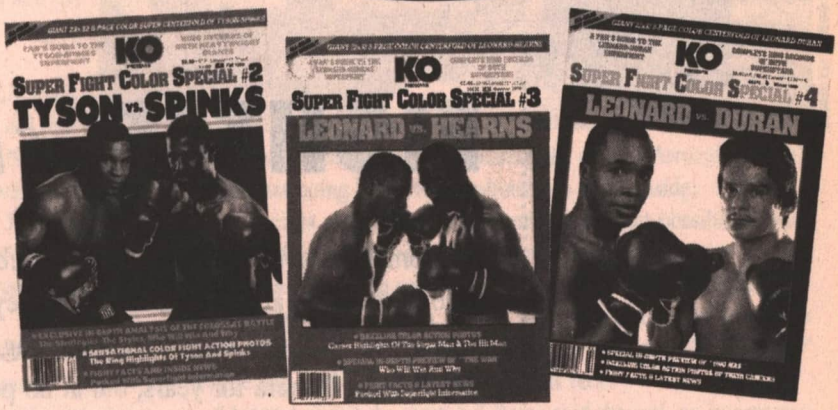

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Insomniacs were rewarded in early-February, when junior featherweights Marco Antonio Barrera and Kennedy McKinney engaged in a memorable shootout that began near midnight on HBO's debuting After Dark boxing series. Insiders have been touting Barrera for years, but at no point during his eye-catching run on recent pay-per-view cards had he been asked to display the guts and guile that marked this victory. We can thank the indomitable McKinney for that.

Make no mistake: Not only is Barrera-McKinney a candidate for Fight of the Year, but the 22-year-old Mexican is the early-season favorite for Fighter of the Year. Plenty of competition is sure to surface, with the winner of the Oscar De La Hoya-Julio Cesar Chavez fight coming to mind. But remember, Barrera's just begun. Who knows how much more "Midnight Marco" will accomplish this year.

Pass the pretzels and the caffeine.

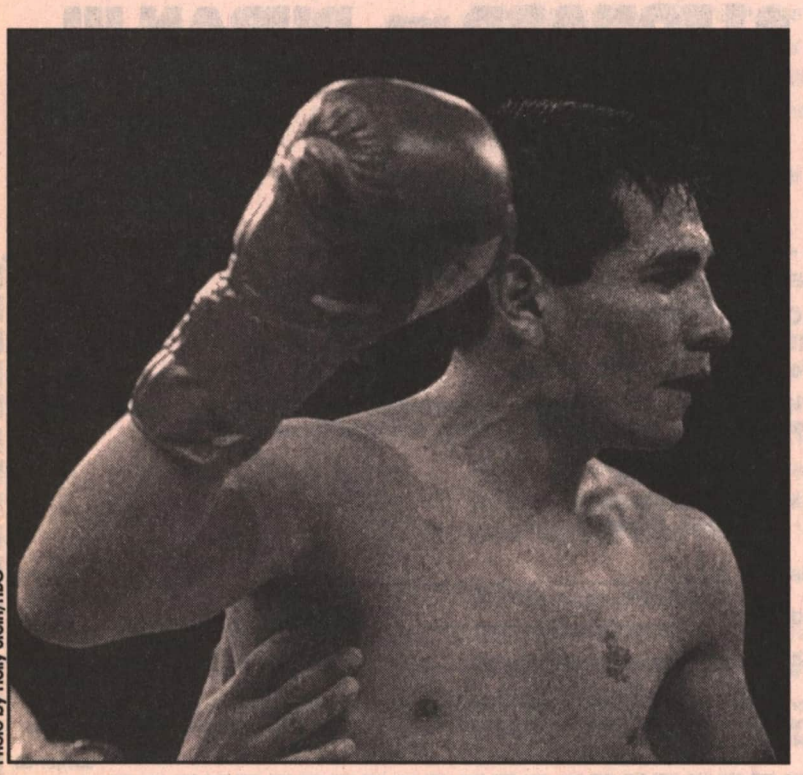

Photo by Holly Stein/HBO

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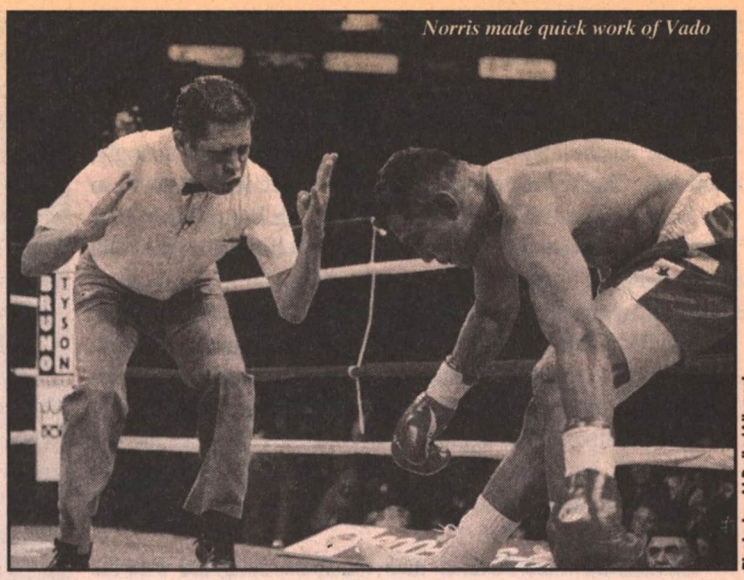
Marco Antonio Barrera

Terry Norris KO 2 Jorge Luis Vado



Norris made quick work of Vado

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Phoenix, Arizona: On paper, it was a mismatch of ridiculous proportions. In the ring, it was even worse.

Norris, the only champion in boxing to hold more than one world title, defended the IBF junior middleweight crown for the first time (the WBC title was not at stake) by quickly ridding the ring of Vado at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

The fight, televised by Fox, came only six weeks after Norris partially unified the title by defeating Paul Vaden on the Tyson-Mathis card. After this brief workout, "Terrible Terry" planned to stay busy; as we went to press, he was scheduled to defend against former world champion Vincent Pettway in late-February, and he hopes to add the WBA 154-pound belt by defeating Julio Cesar Vasquez later this year.*

The 28-year-old Norris, 152½, Campo, California, knew almost nothing about the challenger. Neither did anyone else. Vado, 153½, Miami, Florida, via Leon, Nicaragua, had fought no one of note. His sole accomplishment was having won the Caribbean 154-pound title by knocking out Felix Rojas in August 1995. In case you haven't noticed, it doesn't take much to qualify for a title shot these days. (In fact, Vado wasn't rated *at all* by the IBF.)

The solidly built Vado, 29, won the stareout in ring center when Norris blinked once or twice. The Nicaraguan, however, was overmatched after that. A wide hook staggered him about halfway through the round, and whenever Vado punched, Norris easily slipped or blocked the wide lefts and rights.

Thirty seconds into the second, Norris, 42-6 (26), exploded with a right to the ear and Vado, 13-1-1 (10), wobbled. The champion missed with a jab, measured his opponent with another jab, and cracked Vado with a right to the forehead. *Boom!* Vado rose in time, but when he wiggled, referee Roger Yanez (USA) called a halt at the 42-second mark.

"I just wanted to set him up and lay something on him," said Norris.

The judges were Tony Castellano, Howard Richey, and Gwen Adair, all from the USA.

Activity is good, but the fans deserve better than this. So, for that matter, does Norris.

Promoter: Don King
(1-27-96)
Steve Farhood

Eloy Rojas W 12 Miguel Arrozal

Phoenix, Arizona: Saving an embarrassing championship card that was headlined by the Norris-Vado and Hopkins-Frank mismatches, WBA featherweight champion Rojas and Arrozal tested each other's skill and will at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum, with Rojas retaining the title for the sixth time by unanimous decision.

One of boxing's foremost road warriors, the 28-year-old Rojas, 125¾, Caracas, Venezuela, made his U.S. debut. Mandatory challenger Arrozal, 124¼, Portland, Oregon, via Angeles City, Philippines, presented a threat from the start, when he crowded the champion and let loose with a two-handed body attack. Ever cool, Rojas stuck to his fight plan, spearing the shorter Arrozal, 27, with jabs and tattooing him with combinations when inside.

After eight rounds, an upset seemed a distinct possibility, with Arrozal, 24-6 (13), forcing the pace and attempting to steal rounds by frantically rallying with 20 or 30 seconds to go. But Rojas, 33-1-1 (25), who has always been a strong finisher, dominated the last four stanzas, closing and then cutting "The Manila Mauler's" left eye and bruising the right side of his face.

"Arrozal didn't do enough," Rojas said through an interpreter. "He only fought at the end of the round. He was throwing punches very sparingly. I felt like I could knock him out, but I just couldn't finish him."

In the late rounds, the fatigued Arrozal waited far too long to punch, and Rojas capitalized. Still, the plucky challenger fought a sloppy but spirited last three minutes, and the outcome seemed in doubt. The judges, however, had apparently focused on only one fighter, with Oscar Perez (Dominican Republic) and Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico) scoring 118-110 and Rodolfo Hill (Panama) a ridiculous 120-110. Hill gave Arrozal virtually no credit, scoring 10-0-2 in rounds. THE RING saw a different fight, scoring 114-114. Most of the scribes in press row also thought it to have been a close fight.

The referee was Tony Weeks (USA).

Spent and crushed by the nearsightedness of the judges, Arrozal wept in his dressing room.

"I fought a good fight," he said. "I felt I won. My eye swelled up, but I still had enough to fight the rest of the fight. I felt good to the end, and I thought I was the new champ."

After the bout, WBA President Gilberto Mendoza told THE RING that Rojas was considering retirement. The champion, however, said he hoped to fight again in April. Then he added, "I just want to rest right now."

Promoter: Don King
(1-27-96)
Steve Farhood

Yong Soo Choi W 12 Yamato Mitani

Tokyo, Japan: Barely keeping the WBA junior lightweight title in his first defense, Choi was awarded a unanimous but hairline

decision over southpaw Mitani at the auditorium at Waseda University (the challenger's alma mater).

The 23-year-old Choi, 130, Seoul, South Korea, had beaten five-time former amateur champion Mitani in October 1994. This time, the much-improved Mitani, 129¼, Tokyo, started strongly, punishing Choi with left uppercuts to the midsection and hooks to the face. The onrushing Choi responded with big rights to take rounds four, five, and six, but also suffered a bad cut on the right eyebrow due to frequent unintentional butts.

The 25-year-old Mitani, 7-2 (6), began to utilize movement in the middle rounds. A critical moment came in the ninth, when referee Silvestre Abainza (Philippines) penalized the challenger for butting. As it turned out, the deduction cost the Japanese a draw.

Mitani outboxed the aggressive Choi, 19-2 (12), over the last three rounds, but it wasn't enough, as Pinit Praydasab (Thailand) and Derek Milham (Australia) both scored 115-114 and Rafael Carabano (Venezuela) 115-113.

The crowd, which included many students, disagreed with the verdict, and Mitani appeared crushed. Given Mitani's performance, a rematch is a strong possibility.

Promoter: Misako Promotions

(1-27-96)

Joe Koizumi

Oscar De La Hoya KO 2 Darryl Tyson

Las Vegas, Nevada: Debuting at junior welterweight, De La Hoya seemingly surprised himself with his power and speed in disposing of veteran Tyson at 2:38 of the second round before a crowd of 3,428 at the Sports Pavilion of Caesars Palace.

But will he surprise Julio Cesar Chavez when they square off on June 7?

De La Hoya, 140, Montebello, California, never allowed the 33-year-old Tyson, 139, Washington, D.C., to get untracked. "The Golden Boy" was short with his jab early in the first round, but after missing with a three-punch salvo, he caught Tyson with a left-right-left to the head. Moving forward, De La Hoya, 23, added a jarring right-left to the body, and Tyson, cautious to begin with, permanently switched to defensive mode. Just before the bell, De La Hoya scored with a left uppercut to the jaw and a right to the body.

In the second, De La Hoya, 21-0 (19), continued working behind jabs and head feints. After connecting with two solid hooks, he forced Tyson to hold by firing a pair of rights. When Tyson, 47-9-1 (24), tried to respond, De La Hoya quickly regained control by again attacking his opponent's body.

De La Hoya was warned by referee Mitch Halpern (USA) to keep his punches up, but he kept gunning to the body. After landing a four-punch combination to the head, he felled Tyson with a wicked right to the left side of his ribcage. Tyson dropped to all fours and was counted out while on one knee. Tyson had previously been stopped only once.

The judges were Art Lurie, Chuck Giampa, and Carol Castellano, all from the USA.

Tyson, De La Hoya admitted, had been "an easier fight than I expected. I thought this fight would go six or eight rounds. When I realized that it wouldn't, that's when I took him out. I finally focused on bodyshots.

"I feel I'm ready for Chavez. It will be a great fight, a clash of two warriors. You might see a great knockout."

"I knew De La Hoya was quick," said Tyson, "but I didn't know he could throw big bodypunches like that."

De La Hoya earned $1.75-million, or about $7-million less than he'll make for facing off with Chavez. Tyson was paid $75,000.

The bout, along with Julio Cesar Chavez-Scott Walker, was televised by HBO.

Promoter: Top Rank

(2-9-96)

Jack Welsh

Julio Cesar Chavez KO 2 Scott Walker

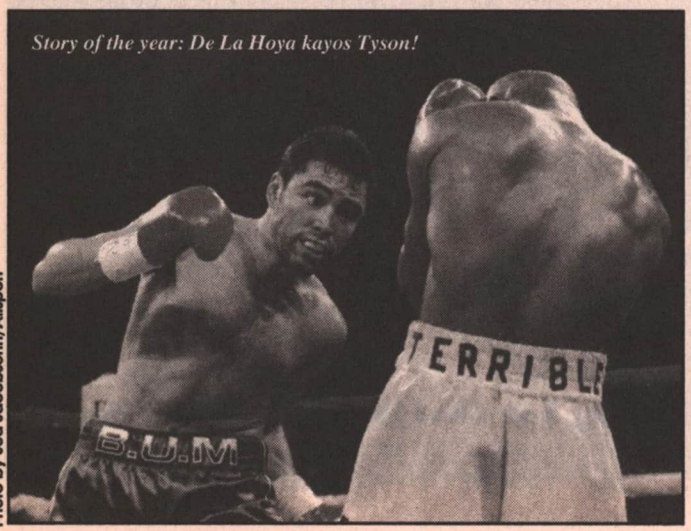
Las Vegas, Nevada: In a non-title tuneup before his upcoming clash with Oscar De La Hoya, WBC super lightweight champion Chavez wasn't troubled at all by Walker, whom he stopped at 2:45 of the second round at the Sports Pavilion in Caesars Palace. Chavez-Walker was the main event on a card that featured De La Hoya's triumph over Darryl Tyson.

Chavez, 144, Culiacan, Mexico, attacked as if his title were at stake. He wasn't troubled at all by the movement of the 6'1" Walker, 144, Mesa, Arizona, nor "The Pink Cat's" advantages in height (5½ inches) and reach (eight inches).

The 26-year-old Walker can someday tell his grandchildren not only that he once decisioned the great Alexis Arguello (in January 1995), but also that he was beating "J.C. Superstar" at the time of the stoppage. The 16-1 underdog won the first round on two cards. He stuck out his jab while in constant retreat, and Chavez, always a slow starter, applied only mild pressure.

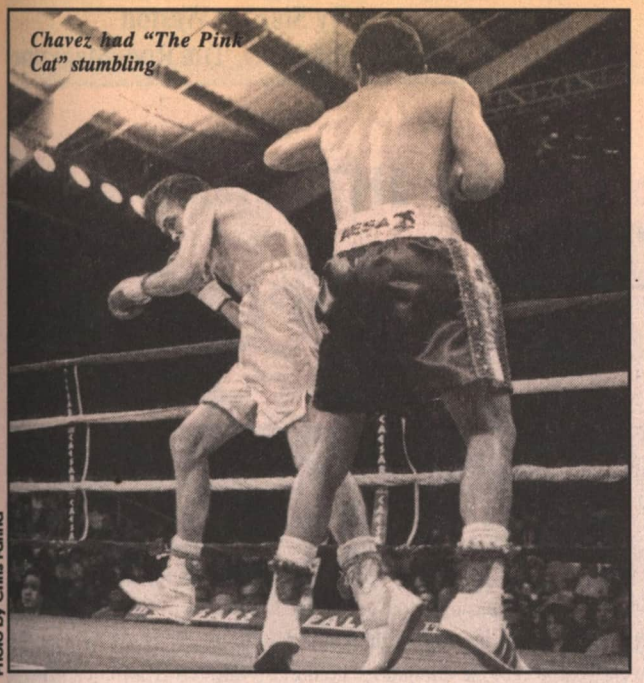
Realizing he'd have to chase his foe, Chavez, 33, accelerated in the second. He started with a hook, then rocked Walker with a double-right to the head and another double-right. Walker wobbled, then desperately tried to hold, even bulling Chavez into the ropes. But Chavez would not be denied. He pulled away and whacked his man with an assortment of punches to both head and body. Pinned on the ropes, Walker, 21-4-1 (12), absorbed a right uppercut and two left-right combos that sent him down. Referee Joe Cortez (USA) didn't bother to count, waving the bout over. "The kid was tired, and he didn't want to fight anymore," explained the third man.

The judges were Duane Ford, Bill Graham, and Al Siciliano, all from the USA.



Story of the year: De La Hoya kayos Tyson!

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport



Chavez had "The Pink Cat" stumbling.

Photo by Chris Farina

"I knew I had to win this fight decisively to beat Oscar De La Hoya," said Chavez, 96-1-1 (78). "I know I'll have to prepare myself, but I know I have the experience, and I'm not afraid of De La Hoya. I know I can take a punch. I'd like to see if Oscar can take *my* punches."

Caesars Palace has opened De La Hoya as a 3-1 favorite over Chavez.

Chavez earned $650,000 and Walker a career-high $62,500.

Promoter: Top Rank

(2-9-96)

Jack Welsh

Felix Trinidad KO 4 Rodney Moore

Las Vegas, Nevada: With an eye on a unification match with Pernell Whitaker, IBF welterweight champion Trinidad dominated Moore, easily retaining the title for the eighth time before a crowd of 5,258 at the MGM Grand Garden. The bout was stopped after the fourth round.

Returning to promoter Don King's stable after a brief departure, Trinidad, 147, Cupey Alto, Puerto Rico, methodically wore down the 30-year-old Moore, 147, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The super-cautious challenger allowed Trinidad, 22, to back him up with combinations from the outset and rarely threw an effective counterpunch. The first round was quiet, with Moore, 37-10-2 (19), missing badly with telegraphed powerpunches. Trinidad, 28-0 (24), connected with double-hooks in the second, and aiming mostly for the body, increased the power in his punches in the third.

In the fourth, Trinidad was relentless with his body attack, and on more than one occasion Moore complained to referee Mitch Halpern (USA) that he was being hit low. Halfway through the round, the champion knocked down Moore with a hook to the body. The challenger beat the count, then backed to a neutral corner and absorbed a salvo. A left to the head again downed Moore, who picked himself up just before the bell.

"I asked him twice in the corner if he wanted to continue," said Halpern, "and he didn't answer me. I told Moore if he didn't answer, I'd stop the fight. When I asked again, Rodney shook his head, saying no. He took some pretty heavy punishment."

The judges were Glen Hamada, Dave Moretti, and Jerry Roth, all from the USA.

Afterward, Trinidad and King resumed their "We Want Whitaker" campaign.

"Pernell Whitaker, don't hide anymore in the bushes," Trinidad said through a translator. "Let's fight. Anywhere. I'll fight you anywhere, even in your hometown. You can choose the place. Let's negotiate this fight."

Trinidad earned $700,000 and Moore $100,000.

The bout was televised by Showtime.

Promoter: Don King

(2-10-96)

Jack Welsh

Yuri Arbachakov W 12 Raul Juarez

Osaka, Japan: Making his eighth defense, WBC flyweight champion Arbachakov offered a lackluster performance in earning a unanimous decision over Juarez at Osaka Castle Hall.

As usual, the 29-year-old Arbachakov, 112, Tokyo, started cautiously, probing with jabs against his taller foe. Juarez, 111½, Mexico, seemed to slip to the canvas when caught by a light shot in the third, but referee Luis Carlos Guzman (Argentina) ruled a knockdown. The champion didn't follow up, and Juarez, 21, turned aggressive, winning the fifth and sixth stanzas.

Midway through the eighth, Arbachakov, 22-0 (15), landed a bodyshot, prompting Juarez, 18-2 (11), to turn his back and fall in pain. The Mexican hit the deck again in the 10th, but showed his heart by fighting back and taking the last round.

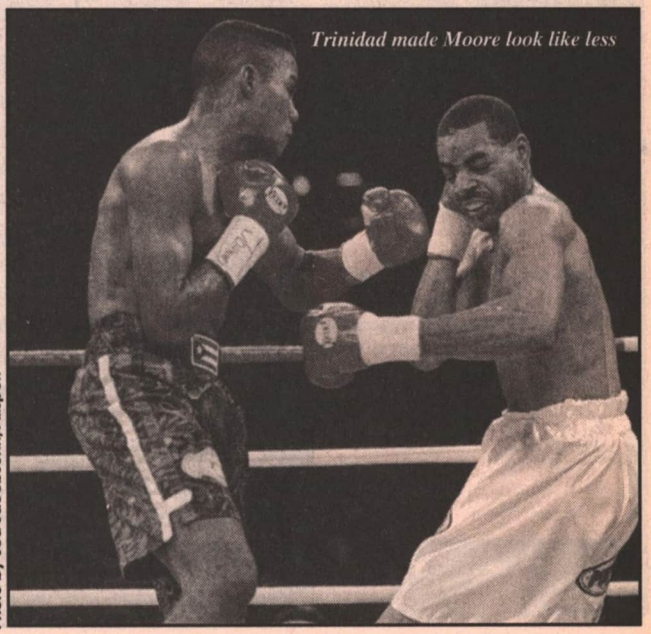
Henry Elespuru (USA) scored 114-112, Harry Croes (Curacao) 117-111, and Gus Mercurio (Australia) 117-110.

Is Arbachakov slowing down? Known for his explosive punching power, he has failed to score a kayo in his last three defenses.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(2-5-96)

Joe Koizumi ■



Trinidad made Moore look like less

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

BOB PASTOR'S BURNING OBSESSION

(1937-1942)

A couple of days after Bob Pastor fought for the last time, a violently disputed 10-round decision loss to Jimmy Bivins (next to Joe Louis, the most feared heavyweight in the trade), he said, "Enough," and moved to another kind of fighting, in the United States wartime Army. One of the very few professional boxers with a college education, he quickly moved from buck private in the Army to first lieutenant in the Air Force, and wound up as athletic director at the pilot training center at Randolph Field, Texas.

Pastor's retirement stirred the *New York Post's* perceptive sports columnist, Stanley Frank, to at least try to assure that Bob's memory would not quickly fade away as did the countless thousands before him who came ever so close, but not quite, to winning a world championship. It was Frank's uncanny insight that stripped away Pastor's glittering surface layers of elegant physique, Cary Grant looks, and enchanting personality for a look inside this unique athlete.

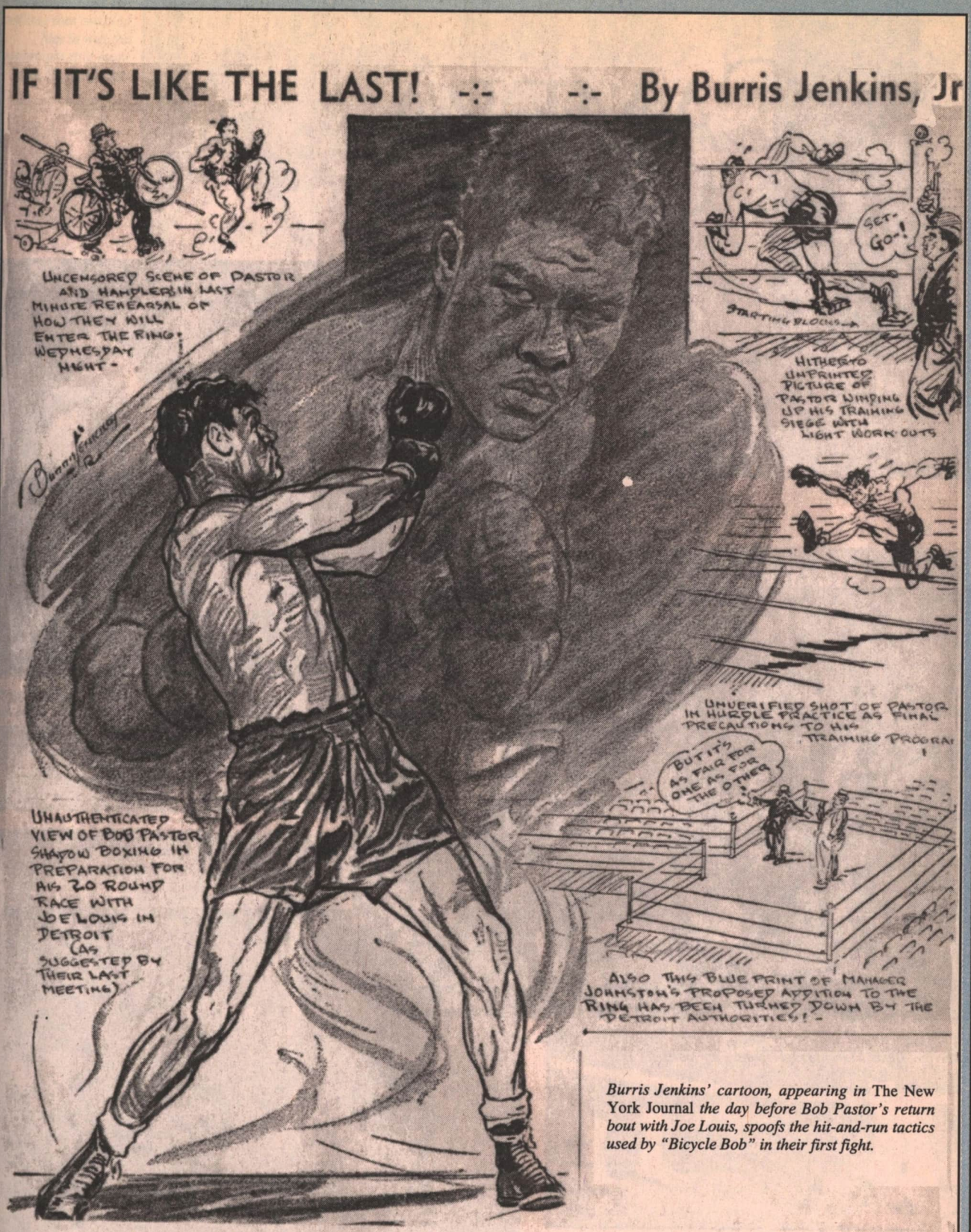
"Belief He Could Beat Joe Louis Made Pastor A Good Fighter," blared the headline over Frank's highly respected column on October 28, 1942. Notice he wrote "good," and not "great." Stan Frank knew better than that. But the further down you got into that column, the more you believed that Frank rated Pastor higher than a simple "good." These are selected extracts from Frank's memorable tribute to a truly deserving ringman:

A strange obsession went into retirement with Bob Pastor the other day. Colorless, conscientious, competent Pastor, a synthetic but successful fighter for eight years, believed he was predestined to win the heavyweight championship from Joe Louis, and nothing—not even the dynamite in Louis' fists—could blast the idea out of his head. Don't ask how or why Pastor became possessed by this obsession. Although he did enormously well with his limited physical equipment, he wasn't a great, natural fighter, and nobody knew it better than Bob himself. He lost a few bad fights, and were many that were corkers. But whether he was high or low, he always had a fatalistic, almost childlike confidence in his ability to beat Louis.

When he was in training, Bob had one habit that always mystified those not familiar with his brooding aberration. He might have been preparing to take on a talentless bore, yet he invariably referred to that opponent as Louis. "Everybody I fight is Louis," he used to say. "Every punch I throw is at Louis. I see the guy's face in front of me all the time. He's a great champion. I'll never be the fighter he is. Joe beat me twice, but I just know I can beat him. I won't miss the third time because that will be the last chance I ever get."

Pastor insists it's not the money that interests him, and I believe him. He built a fine, mortgage-free, $35,000 home on 21 sprawling acres at Saratoga Springs, New York, and he figures

(Continued on page 80)



Burris Jenkins' cartoon, appearing in The New York Journal *the day before Bob Pastor's return bout with Joe Louis, spoofs the hit-and-run tactics used by "Bicycle Bob" in their first fight.*

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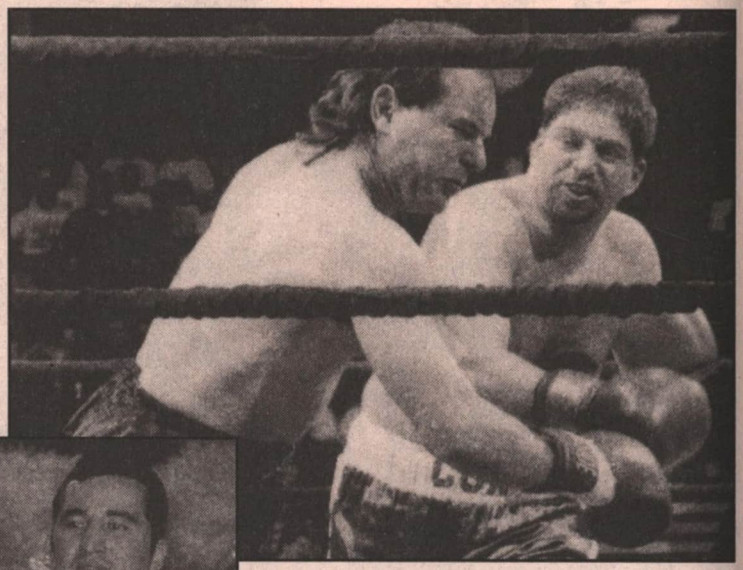


Scott Romer, an Indianapolis-based photographer whose work regularly appears in THE RING, found himself out of focus during his first pro fight, a one-round kayo loss to Monte Cox in December.

Among the winners at a recent boxing awards ceremony in France were (from left) Nigel Benn, Marvin Hagler, and Fabrice Tiozzo.

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

In February, Christy Martin became the first female boxer to fight live on national television when she kayoed Sue Chase in three rounds in Las Vegas. The bout was aired by Showtime.

Flashbacks of Bob Montgomery at the Garden! Seems Beau Jack still has the reflexes that enabled him to win the lightweight title more than 50 years ago.

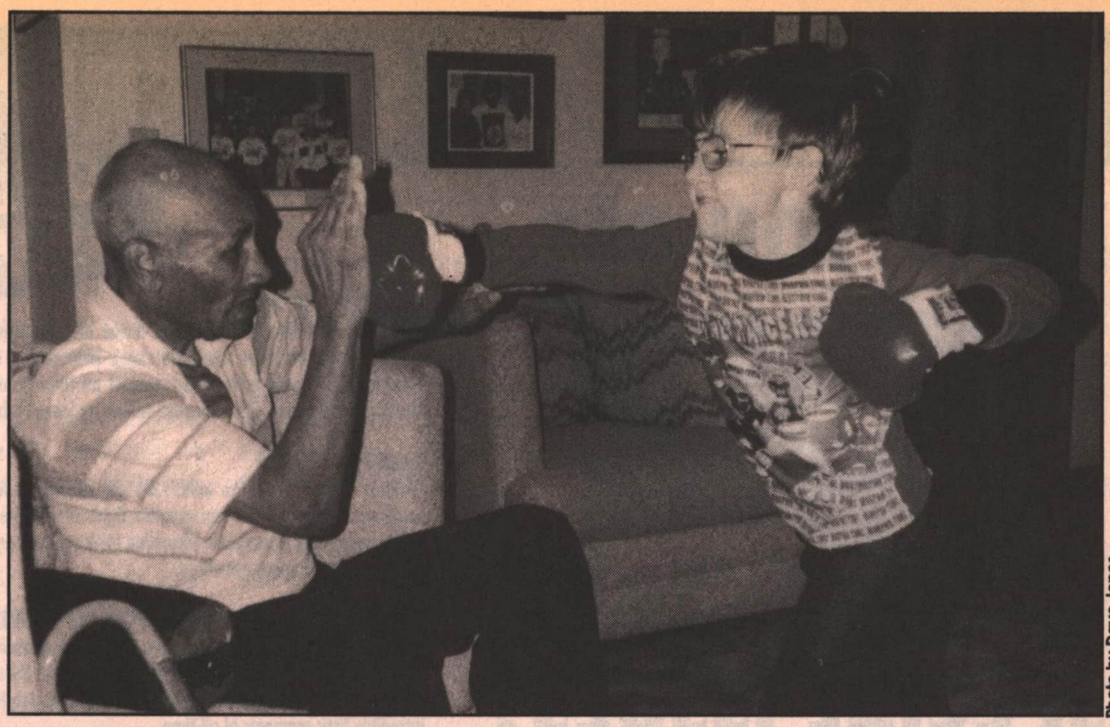
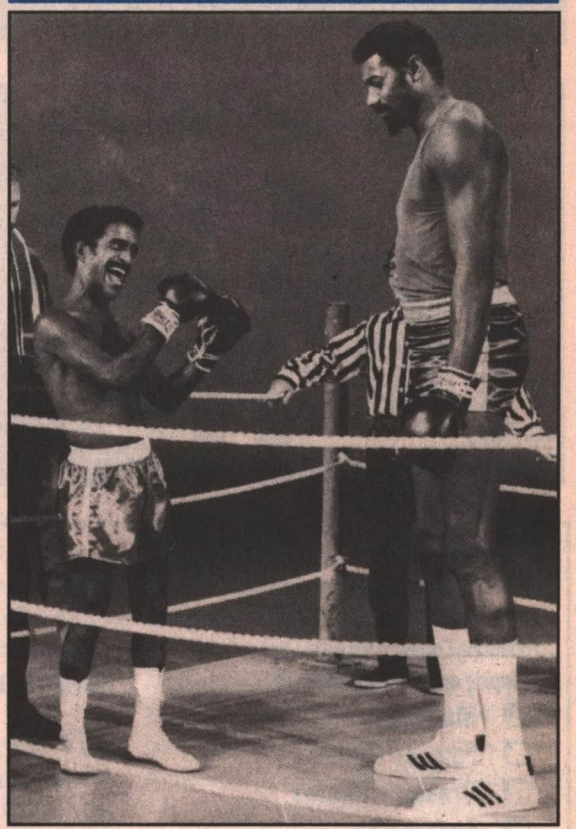


Photo by Dave Jones

Photo by Dave Jones

Former world welterweight champion Kid Gavilan, who turned 70 in January, was called upon for some babysitting duties at a recent function in Miami.

NOSTALGIA CORNER



How about a tale of the tape on these guys? In 1970, Sammy Davis Jr. and Wilt Chamberlain laced 'em up on ***Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In.*** *Is this what it would look like if Ricardo Lopez fought Henry Akinwande?*

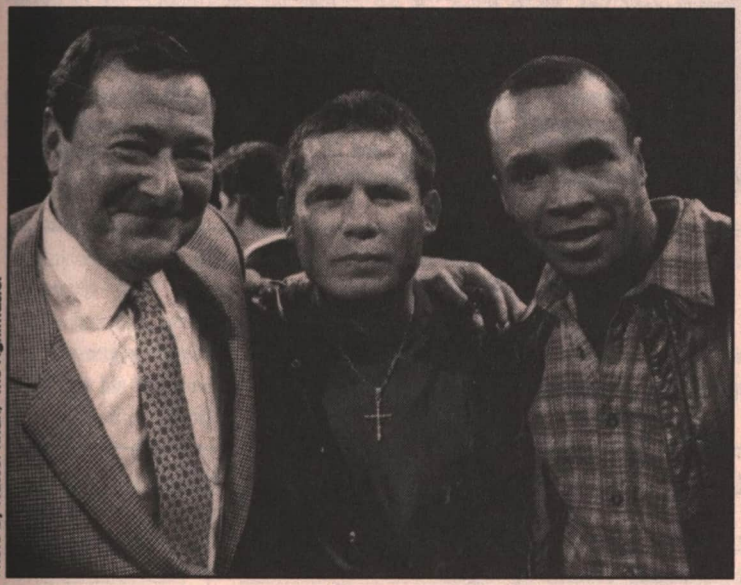


Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

No, promoter Bob Arum isn't thinking about matching Julio Cesar Chavez with Sugar Ray Leonard. Be sure, however, that he would if he could.

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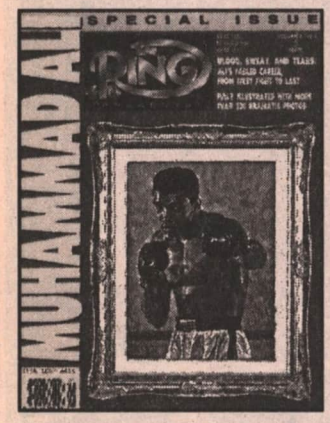

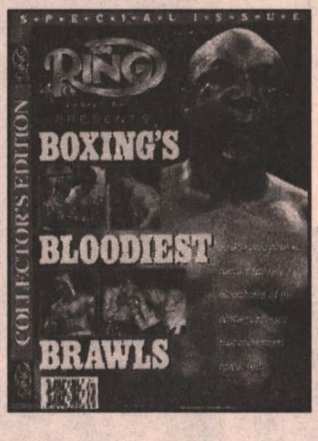

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Barrera-McKinney

(Continued from page 21)

"McKinney showed a lot of greatness," said John Beyrooty, the publicist for Forum Boxing, which promoted the early-season favorite for Fight of the Year. "I've never been more impressed with greatness in a loss."

On television, several rounds looked closer than they were. The electronic eye failed to capture the cruel force of Barrera, whose bodyshots seemed to rock the building. Nonetheless, McKinney earned Barrera's respect with repeated combinations, usually his driving, classic jab followed by a blazing right hand. It was a brutal fight. It was also a beautiful fight.

At his tender age, Barrera may now lay legitimate claim to the mantle of best Mexican fighter at any weight, which is saying a lot. His star is clearly brighter than that of Chiquita Gonzalez or the faded Julio Cesar Chavez. That leaves only WBC strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez and Miguel Angel Gonzalez to challenge him as top hombre. Both remain unbeaten, but Lopez has been inactive due to injury, and Gonzalez is now without a championship, having vacated the WBC lightweight title to campaign as a junior welterweight.

Barrera, the fighting law student from Mexico City, has an unusual history for a boxer. He wasn't raised poor or abandoned by his father. He comes from a comfortable middle-class family and has been torn for years between pursuing his studies at the University of Mexico and continuing his ring career. After his victory over McKinney, there was no more confusion. "I love this sport," he said. "I love what I do."

Barrera had predicted a toe-to-toe battle, seemingly eager to prove not only his skill, but his toughness. When McKinney got in his face at the final prefight press conference, Barrera tapped him with a bare-knuckled right to the chin. After the fight, however, he threw his arms around McKinney. "This is a gentleman's sport," he proclaimed.

Barrera turned pro in November 1989, before his 16th birthday. His first U.S. fight was three years later at the Forum, where he kayoed Esteban Ayala in the fourth round. Since then, he's campaigned mostly outside of Mexico in pursuit of hefty paychecks. As a result, he has a bigger following in the U.S. than in his home country.

As the acerbic Beyrooty likes to say, "Barrera has learned to speak better English in three years than, say, Julio Cesar Chavez has in the last 15."

Always an active fighter, Barrera is known for power in both hands, but not one-punch power. Previous wins included triumphs over 115-pound world champion Carlos Salazar, former world bantamweight champion Eddie Cook, Puerto Rico's Daniel Jimenez, and Eddie Croft. Fine fighters, all, but McKinney was still a considerable jump up in class.

The 30-year-old McKinney, whose history of drug abuse has been well-documented, won the IBF 122-pound crown in December 1992, when he rose from the canvas to kayo the formidable Welcome Ncita. After five successful defenses, he was dethroned on points by another South African, Vuyani Bungu, in August 1994.

McKinney, who fought only once in 1995, chalked up the loss to his inactivity and the eight-year age difference between fighters. Age *may* have been a factor. Barrera's chin and body attack, on the other hand, were *surely* factors.

While the stalwart McKinney hammered away at Barrera's head, as though in disbelief that his opponent could absorb such shots, the Mexican worked up and down, obeying his cornermen, who implored him to weaken McKinney. Barrera's favorite combination was a hook to the liver or midsection followed by a short overhand right to the jaw. He went to it all night. It's a testament to his speed that he was able to score with the repeated salvo against the quick, highly skilled McKinney. The thundering lefts usually got through, even though McKinney's hands were held low. The punches seemed to freeze McKinney just long enough to set him up for the rights.

McKinney entered the ring wearing a yellow and purple Magic Johnson Lakers jersey. If this was meant to win over the crowd, it was doomed from the outset. Most fight fans at the Forum don't follow basketball and root for Hispanic fighters, particularly Mexicans. Again and again, Americans have come to town to be treated like strangers in a strange land. This was the turn of McKinney, who was greeted with mostly boos. As Barrera climbed through the ropes, the rafters shook with cheers.

In the first, Barrera, 121, Mexico City, Mexico, and McKinney, 122, Memphis, Tennessee, traded jabs before Barrera landed a double-right. McKinney came back with a right, and Barrera hooked to the body. The tone was set; both fighters were determined to hit back when hit, and the hitting never stopped. McKinney scored well, Barrera scored better.

In the second, a powerful left to the body momentarily curled McKinney, who was punished in a corner until able to slip away. When Barrera followed him, McKinney served notice with a slick right uppercut.

In the third, Barrera moved into his rhythm: hook to the body, right to the jaw. In the fourth, McKinney jabbed Barrera into a corner and landed some solid rights, which had no visible effect. At the round's end, Barrera was firing the harder punches.

"The young man was strong," acknowledged McKinney. "He was heavy-handed."

Round five saw Barrera throwing more power shots and the 5'8" McKinney trying to box and capitalize on his advantage in height (three inches) and reach (four inches). "I believe if I would've boxed," said McKinney, "I would've won. I fought him and I'm a boxer. I really wanted to knock him out."

Before the sixth, referee Pat Russell (USA) warned Barrera to keep his punches up, but no points were deducted. In that round, McKinney caught Barrera with a flashing combination and backed him to the ropes, but once more Barrera was scoring at the end of the round. It was a particularly fierce three minutes, and will doubtlessly be a candidate for Round of the Year.

In the seventh, Barrera looked to be tiring, and after landing a vicious right, McKinney was stalking him at the bell. McKinney was clearly winning the eighth with jabs and rights when a hook to the body and an overhand right—there's that combination again—sent him to the canvas. Thirty seconds later, a barrage sent him down again, and he was barely hanging on at the bell. "All I could do," he said, "was pull up my bootstraps and get back up."

McKinney was noticeably weary in the ninth, with Barrera following him around the ring like a guy walking to work. After a withering Barrera onslaught, McKinney sank to one knee in a corner. At the bell, he was again being punished along the ropes.

The ring doctor examined McKinney between rounds, which extended the fighter's rest to almost two minutes. The extra time clearly worked in his favor. He charged out for the 10th, landing a booming right. Barrera was in trouble, but then McKinney's mouthpiece flew out. A few seconds later, Russell stopped the action to reinsert it, which clearly helped Barrera. "I thought that was my chance," said McKinney.

In the 11th, a right forced Barrera to keep his balance by touching both gloves to the canvas, and Russell correctly ruled a knockdown, the second of the Mexican's career. But Barrera summoned reserve energy and came back punching, scoring with a big one-two late in the round.

Round 12 began with all the fans on their feet and yelling. Fifteen seconds in, a right to the body put McKinney down. Occurring on the painted Budweiser logo in ring-center, it looked like a slip, but Russell ruled otherwise. Seconds later, Barrera scored what appeared to be a clean knockdown with a left to the body. This time the referee ruled a slip.

Barrera charged in, mixing his punches, and two rights to the head sent a spent McKinney down again. Russell waved off the count at the 2:05 mark, and there was no protest. After 11 rounds, all three judges, Lou Filippo (USA), Robert Byrd (USA), and Wiso Fernandez (Puerto Rico), had Barrera in front by 106-100.

McKinney's manager, Akbar Muhammad, who had been irked by the crowd's preference for Barrera, and by what he described as "horrible officiating," said a rematch should be in Las Vegas—and definitely not California. Like his fighter, Muhammad was particularly upset by Russell's timing in reinserting McKinney's mouthpiece in round 10.

Both Muhammad and McKinney talked of a rematch. Their plan is to regain the IBF title from Bungu before again challenging Barrera. "I guarantee you," said Muhammad, "[Barrera] will see Kennedy McKinney again if he stays at 122 pounds."

Barrera, who rarely smiles, beamed, saying he makes weight easily and has no plans of moving up to featherweight. He promised he would fight a rematch "in McKinney's own backyard if he wants."

No one would argue with a return bout. In fact, the sooner, the better. Just don't expect a sequel to match the original. As we know all too well, great fights don't come around that often. And when pitted against each other, at least, how much more can we expect Barrera and McKinney to give? ■

Ivan G. Goldman is The Ring's correspondent in Southern California.

De La Hoya

(Continued from page 26)

Three sparring partners, a couple of helpers, and De La Hoya's brother Joel drift in. Somebody puts Latin music with a driving beat on the sound system, which is a good one. The music will stay on throughout the workout. The sparring part-

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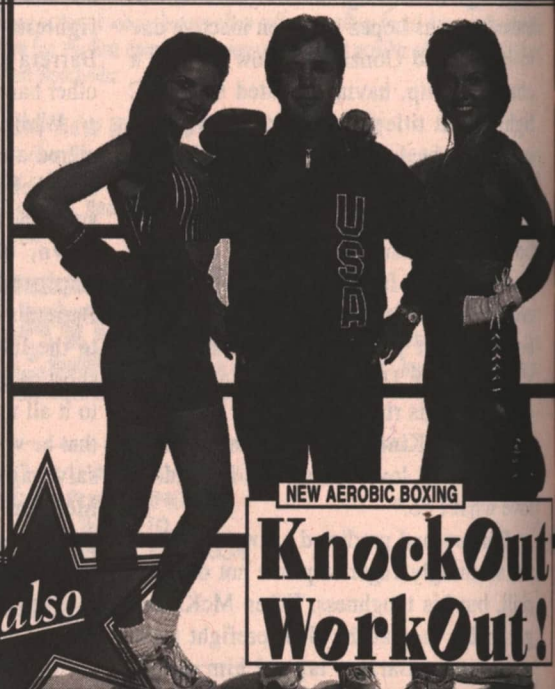

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ners shadowbox, stretch, and apply their handwraps. Joel mounts the treadmill for a workout of his own.

2:43 p.m.: De La Hoya enters, and Alcazar immediately begins applying the wraps. De La Hoya has the kind of long fingers a pianist would kill for. Alcazar works quickly, but with great care. It's serious business. One of the last things a fighter needs, of course, is a hand injury.

3 p.m.: Wraps and foul protector over his sweats, De La Hoya shadowboxes in the ring. There's a raised mirror along one wall. "Bam! Bam!" Quick, quick moves.

Chatting as he watches, Alcazar confirms the story circulating around the gyms that De La Hoya and Julio Cesar Chavez once sparred, and that during the proceedings, De La Hoya visited the canvas. "Oscar was just playing with him," Alcazar says.

The trainer also notes that the sparring session occurred at least five years ago, when De La Hoya was still an amateur, and that it was Chavez who insisted on 18-ounce gloves.

Talk at this camp is all about the proposed super-battle in June vs. Chavez. The Tyson fight is clearly a tuneup, and no one expects it to last more than a few rounds.

De La Hoya: "Bam! Bam!"

"Look at those jabs," Alcazar says proudly. "What's Chavez going to do?"

3:18 p.m.: De La Hoya stops shadowboxing after 18 minutes of intense work without a break. Again, don't try this at home.

3:19 p.m.: De La Hoya quickly dons headgear and 14-ounce gloves, and sparring begins with partner number one, Jovani Cervantes. Each partner will go in for two rounds. De La Hoya's punches are crisp, but he is sparring, not destroying. His varied combinations almost always work beautifully, but none lasts more than three or four punches.

Cervantes tries long hooks, jabs, combinations. A shot from De La Hoya starts his nose bleeding. From time to time, Alcazar will signal Cervantes and the others, telling them what to throw. It's up to De La Hoya to figure out how to react.

Obeying Alcazar, Cervantes tries some overhand rights, but none of them lands flush. De La Hoya connects with a big right to the body, and a few seconds later, a four-punch combination that renders Cervantes less aggressive.

3:28 p.m.: Daniel "El Chocolate" Hernandez is next to enter the ring. In seconds, a jab injures his right eye, and De La Hoya steps back. Recovered, Hernandez tries working inside and throwing uppercuts. De La Hoya lands a left-right-left to the body. There are no shots wasted. In his fourth round of sparring, he lands a sweet uppercut to the body.

3:46 p.m.: It's Gilberto Zarate's turn. Sweating profusely, De La Hoya has removed his shirt. Done with their duties for the day, some workers who have been building the house come in to watch. It's a perk that comes with working in the right place and the right time.

Zarate shows good speed. None of these guys is a pushover. De La Hoya moves in with jabs and hooks. In round six, when Zarate comes in, De La Hoya finds him with a right uppercut.

3:55 p.m.: Finished sparring, De La Hoya heads straight to a water-filled heavybag and works for four minutes, with Alcazar watching. "Bam! Bam!"

4 p.m.: After a one-minute rest, De La Hoya heads to the double-end bag, where he works different combinations and tries a few moves under Alcazar's direction.

4:03 p.m.: The gloves come off. De La Hoya continues trying some moves, shadowboxing by the mirror.

4:06 p.m.: The workout over, De La Hoya heads to the rented Tudor to shower and then puts on street clothes. Cervantes' nose is still trickling blood.

5 p.m.: Back to the Sugar Bear, where this time De La Hoya and Alcazar are joined by the sparring partners. There's a different waitress. She's more mature, and there's no flirting. She treats De La Hoya like everyone else does: with a smile.

De La Hoya drinks herbal tea, squeezing in the juice from a pile of lemons. He orders barbecued chicken with vegetables, and

(Continued on page 74)

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Publisher's Weekly

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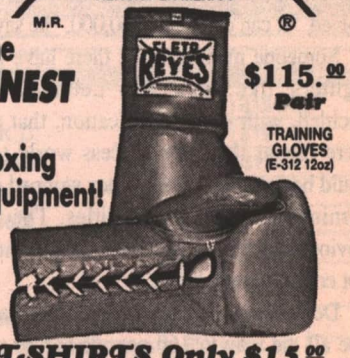

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De La Hoya

(Continued from page 73)

does not clean his plate. But he finishes the meal with chocolate ice cream. That's the last of food for this day. Two meals do it.

There's not much to do in a ski town at night if you don't drink or pursue other vices, so De La Hoya lingers in the Sugar Bear for a while. It's not so crowded that anybody needs the table.

After leaving the restaurant, there will be a walk around town, a movie on videotape, and lights out at 10 p.m.

In a few weeks, when the house is completed, he says, Team De La Hoya will bring in its own cook. "For Chavez, everything will be right," De La Hoya adds.

"Then I want to fight Sammy Fuentes," he continues. Before making the Tyson fight, Bob Arum, De La Hoya's promoter, was negotiating for a bout with Fuentes. When it fell through, critics claimed De La Hoya wanted no part of the resurgent Fuentes, a dangerous opponent with 13 losses but power in both hands. Spend some time with De La Hoya, however, and you get the distinct impression that he fears no man. Fact is, he can fight only one guy at a time. And he's not going to face formidable opposition every time out.

Some of the alphabet organizations, De La Hoya notes, want so much money to sanction title fights, he's not sure it's worth it, especially when more than one belt is involved. "It can cost you $200,000," he says.

Someone mentions that there have been fighters, like Sugar Ray Leonard, who decided, with some justification, that they were bigger than any success world titles could bestow. As a result, they stopped concerning themselves with titles. The idea obviously interests De La Hoya, but he does not commit himself to it.

De La Hoya again expresses his plan to rise all the way to 160 pounds before retiring. Before everyone heads out of the restaurant, De La Hoya, who has just been discussing private chefs, seven-figure purses, and six-figure sanctioning fees, takes out his wallet and displays a folded, official-looking document from his world long ago. It is a food stamp.

Says the Golden Boy from East L.A., "I don't ever want to forget." ■

Jimmy Bivins

(Continued from page 55)

and knocked me down. But he didn't do that to me after that. I knew he'd be champion. He had the skill and the perseverance. I knew he would make it."

•Like Bivins, **Joey Maxim** began his amateur career at Johnny Papke's Gym in Cleveland. The rivals split a pair of bouts as pros, with both fights coming before Maxim captured the world light heavyweight title in 1950.

"He was a great boxer. He was fast on his feet and quick with his hands. He just didn't have the punch. He could box rings around you. I was little then, but I could hit a little, too. I boxed him in the amateurs and in the pros, and I knew he'd be on top. I knew I'd see him there. He was tall and he could move. But I was slipping and moving, too, and I cut him off. He couldn't go nowhere. I didn't give him a chance. My body attack slowed him down."

•Bivins lost a 10-round decision to former heavyweight champion **Joe Louis** on August 15, 1951, in Baltimore. Two weeks earlier, Louis had decisioned another contender, Cesar Brion, in San Francisco. But the fight that followed the Bivins bout was the last of "The Brown Bomber's" magnificent career; he retired after getting kayoed by future world champion Rocky Marciano on October 26, 1951. Bivins fought until 1955.

"Louis predicted he would knock me out. He should have knocked a guy like me out. But I wasn't thinking about quitting. He wasn't going to hit me if I could help it. He hit too hard."

•The Best Of The Best

"Everyone always asks me who is the best fighter I ever fought, and I don't like to pick just one guy. They were all great. Burley was no better than Charles, and Charles was no better than Maxim. But the one guy who stands out—and he stands out in everyone's mind—is Archie Moore. I thought he was the greatest fighter in the world. He could punch and he could box. But he could *really* punch. He wasn't afraid of nobody. He fought everyone and beat them." ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 57)

jures memories of a young Thomas Hearns. He is a slashing, predatory, pressure fighter, measuring his prey with a sterling jab. He wastes few punches, but looks to fire his right hand at an open target. At 6', he is an imposing presence as a junior welterweight.

Forrest was a 1992 U.S. Olympian, but he's nonetheless traveled a hardscrabble road. Growing up in Augusta, he lived two blocks away from the Augusta Boxing Club. It was a convenience he began taking advantage of at age nine. "One day they called me in to box with this one kid who was supposedly real good," he recalled, "and I tore his ass up. From then on I was hooked."

Forrest compiled an amateur record of 225-16, scoring victories over the likes of Steve Johnston and Shane Mosley. In the 1991 world championships, he lost a close decision to a promising youngster named Kostya Tszyu.

In 1992, Forrest won the world championships at 139 pounds. Later that year, he represented the USA in Barcelona. Making the team was the highlight of his amateur career, but his experience at the Games was his biggest disappointment.

"I had dreamed the same dream since I was nine," he said, "and that was to compete in the Olympics. But I got sick a few days before my first fight, and my body was extremely weak. I wasn't even sure I'd pass the physical."

Two days before the bout, Forrest's coach, Joe Byrd, considered pulling him out of the competition. But Forrest improved, and afterward said, "I felt great."

In the first round, Forrest drew England's Peter Richardson, whom he had decisively beaten once before. "I decided to conserve my energy until the end of the fight," he said. "I figured I had the better boxing skills and could hold the guy off until the third round, then get the decision."

After two rounds, Forrest was behind on points. At the start of the third, he willed his weary body to war. "I came out and threw a couple combinations," he said, "and they gave the guy an eight-count. I attacked the guy again, and he got another eight-count. After that, the guy kept holding and holding

(Continued on page 76)

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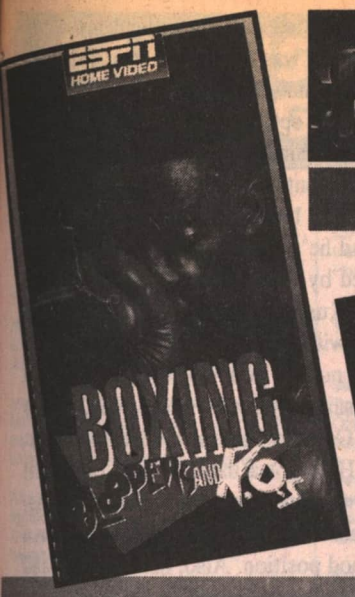

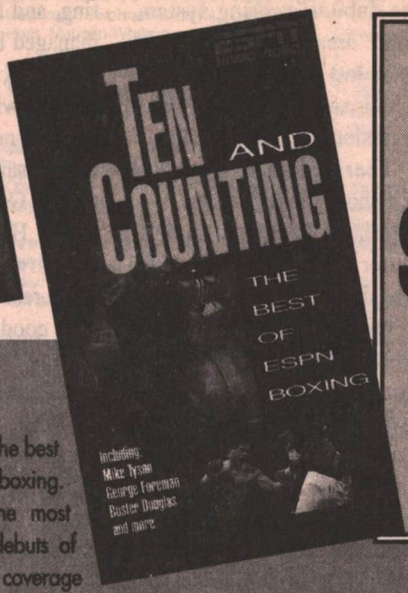

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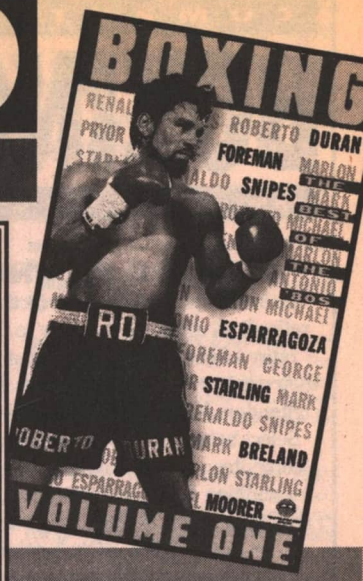

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New Faces

(Continued from page 74)

until I dropped him at the final bell, but the referee didn't rule it as a knockdown."

Through the dubious scoring system, Forrest's Olympic dream came to a most inglorious end; he lost by a score of 14-8. "Every time I saw somebody else win a gold medal, depression just came upon me," he recalled. "Tears came to my eyes because I knew it should have been me."

Forrest could have wallowed in self-pity, but his bitter experience only stiffened his resolve, and he set new goals as a professional. Fighting out of Las Vegas under the tutelage of still-active former world champion Roger Mayweather, he turned pro in November 1992, taking out his Olympic frustrations by steamrolling Charles Hawkins in one round. Five consecutive kayos followed, and Forrest's career was progressing perfectly when, in February 1994, his right hand rammed into the head of Elvesto Mills.

"I guess I hit the guy on the head too many times," said Forrest. "A lot of times I'll hit a guy on the head real hard and my hand will hurt only for a minute, then the pain will just go away. But this time the pain kept getting more intense each time I hit him."

By the end of the second round, Forrest knew his hand was broken. He was advised to throw his right hand only to the body, but when Mills began anticipating those shots and lowering his guard, Forrest found the temptation too great. "I saw an opening to the head and I caught him on the forehead," he recalled. "The pain that went through my body was unbelievable. Tears were coming out of my eyes. The pain was just killing me."

Forrest sailed to a lopsided, albeit uncomfortable, six-round decision victory. What followed was a depressing four-month period during which he could not so much as ball a fist. He became so despondent, he considered quitting the fight game and working toward a degree in business administration.

When the hand healed, Forrest returned to the gym, but on his second day of sparring, he refractured the hand. This time, however, he immediately went to a specialist. A pin was inserted, and just a month and a half later, Forrest was back in the gym. When he decided to move his base back to Georgia, Mayweather opted to stay in Las Vegas, and fighter and trainer parted amicably.

Nine months to the day after the hand was initially broken, Forrest returned to the ring, and he's had no problems since. He's managed by Billy Baxter and promoted by Cedric Kushner, and he recently began training with respected veteran Jesse Reid.

"Vernon is in a world-championship class," said Reid, who works with, among others, Orlando Canizales. "He's got great speed. He's got a natural, long reach that he knows how to use. He judges his distance real well, and he keeps his hands in a very good position. Also, his footwork and balance are real good. I think he's an excellent fighter."

While Forrest has just begun his assault on the 140-pound ratings, he's already thinking about emulating Hearns, who started at welterweight and now fights at cruiserweight.

"This is my dream," he said, "and I don't care how crazy it sounds: I want to be a six-time world champion, all the way up to light heavyweight. Then I'll retire for a year or two, come back as a heavyweight, and win the heavyweight championship."

Lofty goals for sure, but Forrest, says Reid, is willing to work toward them. "He's not cocky," said the trainer. "He feels good about himself, but he's a very humble young man, and I think he's been well-raised. He's a hard worker, very dedicated. He's what you'd call a coach's dream."

The biggest problem Team Forrest has faced since the Thomas fight is finding opposition. "People that see Vernon fight know he's capable of doing a lot of things," said Reid. "He can box, he can pressure you, and he can hit you with one punch and knock you out."

As if it was needed, Forrest's victory over Thomas provided a boost in confidence. There are lots of big-name junior welterweights he can aim for, including familiar rival Tszyu, who holds the IBF title.

"I want to be champion of the world," said the suddenly sizzling 140-pounder. "I can't stand for somebody to be considered better than me." ■

Geoff Fox is a freelance writer based in Marietta, Georgia.

BACK ISSUES OF BOXING 88/95

Beginning in 1988, this popular magazine went to an all-new format, featuring a fresh look at the fight game through the eyes of its top-notch writers, columnists, and photographers. "The Fight Fan's Magazine" has, since that time, earned recognition as one of the top boxing magazines around.

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July 1993: The Undisputed Bad Boy Of Boxing: James Toney Whips Iran Barkley. Also: Tony Lopez, Kostya Tszyu, Julio Cesar Chavez, The Year That Was: 1977, Roy Jones-Bernard Hopkins.

Jan. 1994: Fight Night With The Golden Boy—Oscar De La Hoya: Superstar In Training. Also: Riddick Bowe, Roberto Duran, Joe Frazier, Larry Merchant.

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The Internet

(Continued from page 59)

3) This front end will, without fail, contain a Search command. Type in the word "boxing."

4) A list of Internet sites, usually with a capsule summary of what is available at each site, will appear on your screen, the results of the search.

5) Select one of the sites. You'll arrive at the chosen location, and you can begin examining the boxing information that's offered.

The material offered on the Net varies so greatly and comes in so many formats that to attempt to categorize it would be folly. Instead, what follows is a look at a half-dozen or so of the most popular locations found by surfing the Net.

•USA Today Sports: An excellent site that contains up-to-date material in an easy-to-read format. Viewers are usually treated to detailed capsules on current boxing news. "Ex-girlfriend Accuses McNeeley," "Kelley Beats Espinoza In FW Bout," and "Bugner Continues Successful Comeback" recently appeared at the same time in the boxing area. The location also lists upcoming fights.

•The Sports Network: One of the best sites on the Internet. This area contains a smorgasbord of information, and does so in the most complete format available. The Sports Network's affiliation with Fight Fax Inc., for example, guarantees comprehensive results on a monthly basis. Accessing this area on January 30 provided more than 140 results from January 1 through January 28, complete with venue, participants, records of the participants, and results. The schedule found here, also compliments of Fight Fax, listed not only major bouts, but obscure fights like Jerry Ballard vs. Thomas Williams in Glen Burnie, Maryland, and Scotty Olson vs. Jesus Zuniga in Edmonton, Alberta. The schedule lists participants, records, title at stake (if applicable), and television network on which the fight is being shown (if applicable). In addition, news highlights and miscellaneous tidbits are available.

•The Sports Server—Boxing Features: A different, but just as effective, approach to delivering boxing news can be found here. Listed is a month of dates, starting with the most recent day and working back. Under each day's heading, you'll find from one to four articles dealing with late-breaking news. You might find a detailed report on a fight that took place the night before, or a general interest story on a fighter who has been, or will soon be, in the news. The top line on the page lists a year's worth of months, and clicking on a specific month brings up a day-by-day article listing.

The Sports Server also features an ever-changing Photo Gallery made up of both fighter profiles and action shots.

•Pat's Boxing Page: While the page itself doesn't contain specific material, it serves as a comprehensive launching pad to many other Internet areas, listing more than a dozen main sites by category. Clicking on the boxing gloves icon under the category Resources will take you to an area where you can obtain videos, equipment, novelties, and more. Pat's Boxing Page is also an easy way to find boxing newsgroups (similar to the aforementioned Grandstand Message Board) on the Net. Pat Mulcahy, a true friend of boxing, maintains this site out of his love for the sport. More than 1,500 users per month visit this site.

•Olympic Boxing: The official page for the upcoming 1996 Centennial Olympic Boxing Games, this page contains all the information that you could ask for. It covers the history of the event, the venue, number of events, competition format, competition dates, and so on.

•Mr. Boxing's Page: A good source for information outside the States. This page is rather eclectic. Its usefulness comes from its extensive information on the European scene, including rankings, results, scheduled events, and general news.

All the sites above can be accessed free of charge, and the information can be downloaded and saved or printed for personal use. Two other excellent Internet areas that deserve mentioning are somewhat different. While these areas provide some excellent free features, both sites require a monthly fee.

•The ESPNET Sports Zone—Boxing: ESPN's contribution is a graphic, high-profile page that offers something for everyone. The page is broken down into News, Features, and specialty areas. The News section contains the latest reports on events and fight results ("Barrera Retains Junior Featherweight Title With Knockout," "Tyson Fight Set For June 22"). The Features section is broader ("Pound-For-Pound: Who's Best?"). Specialty areas include Champions, Schedule, Sports Talk, where you can exchange questions with a boxing personality, and Chat. Certain features are available to subscribers only. The rate, $4.95 per month, is very reasonable, and it allows you to not only access high-end material in the boxing locations, but also in any other ESPNET Sports Zone area, including baseball, football, and basketball.

•Sportsline USA—Boxing Ring: Very similar to the ESPNET Sports Zone, this offers even more, but much of it is off-limits to non-subscribers. Besides running articles and features similar to the ones found elsewhere, Sportsline USA gives subscribers access to Associated Press stories, provides in-depth analysis on the Fight of the Month, and allows entry into an exciting area called "Recent Bouts In Photos." Also provided are the staples, like schedules and results. The fee to access all areas of this service is also $4.95 per month.

The areas discussed above are only a few of the major boxing information services available. Other specialty sites focus on white-collar boxing for fun and exercise, collector sites where boxing memorabilia can be traded, bought, and sold, and odds for upcoming fights.

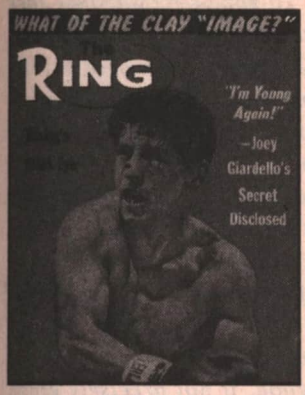
The Internet keeps evolving. Each week brings new boxing sites, adds more features to existing sites, and provides fans with a wide variety of up-to-date information.

All you need to do is buy a computer and modem, subscribe to a service provider, and meet me on the information superhighway. I'll be the guy thumbing an electronic ride to the boxing sites. ■

Jim Trunzo, The Ring's computer whiz, is based in Leechburg, Pennsylvania.

The RING '60s & '70s ISSUES

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, The Ring was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, The Ring was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of The Ring were already talking about them. The Ring covered all the boxing events of the 1960s and 1970s as no other magazine could–and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).



JUNE 1964

June 1964: Joey Giardello's Secret Disclosed: "I'm Young Again!" Plus: Cassius Clay, Willie Pastrano, Floyd Patterson, Carlos Ortiz, heavyweight hopefuls.

Aug. 1964: Who Is Floyd Robertson? Plus: Max Schmeling, Griffith-Rodriguez, Dick Tiger, Olympic preview, Joey Giardello, Sonny Liston.

Sept. 1964: The Perils Of Patterson! Plus: Cleveland Williams, Laszlo Papp, Jose Stable, Carlos Ortiz.

July 1965: Jose Torres, Puerto Rico's New Hero. Plus: Clay-Liston II prefight, Gene Tunney, Joey Giardello, Bonavena-Folley, George Chuvalo.

Nov. 1965: Giardello Title Tenure Over? Plus: History of middleweights, heavyweight situation, Johnny Persol, Luis Rodriguez, Mathis & Frazier's pro debuts.

May 1966: Who Will Tame Dick Tiger? Clay-Terrell preview, James Norris, Emile Griffith, Vicente Saldivar.

Jan. 1967: Is Time Running Out On Terrell? Plus: Torres-Tiger preview, long count mystery solved, Carlos Ortiz, Cassius Clay, Zora Folley, Johnny Persol.

April 1967: Death Stalks The Tiger. Plus: Cassius Clay, Emile Griffith, Mike Jacobs, Barney Ross, Joe Clark.

Dec. 1967: Jack Dempsey Picks Next Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Griffith-Benvenuti II, Joe Frazier, Gans-McGovern controversy, Buster Mathis.

Jan. 1968: Corbett-Dempsey Computer Fight. Plus: Joe Frazier, Jerry Quarry, Jimmy Ellis, Thad Spencer, Vicente Saldivar retires.

June 1968: Boone Kirkman: Heavyweight Threat. Plus: Ken Buchanan, Sonny Liston, Ernie Terrell, southpaws, Nino Benvenuti & Frank Sinatra.

Nov. 1968: Are Today's Fighters Overpaid? Plus: Joey Archer, Emile Griffith, Sugar Ray Robinson, Fritzie Zivic.

Dec. 1968: Is World Boxing Association Crumbling? Plus: Ellis-Patterson, George Chuvalo, Kid Gavilan, Bob Foster.

May 1969: Frazier-Ellis—A Knockout For 1969! Plus: Mando Ramos, Bob Foster, cornermen, Marty Servo.

Feb. 1972: Will Tax Bite KO Foreign Invasion? Plus: Clay-Mathis, Quarry-Bodell, Mando Ramos, Ruben Olivares, Foreman-Pires, Foster-Hicks.

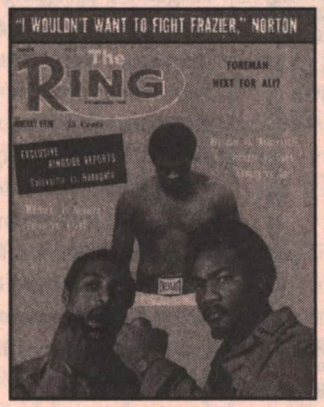
July 1973: Has Time Come For Ali To Quit? Plus: Ken Norton, George Foreman, Bruno Arcari, Danny Lopez, Jimmy Richards, Henry Cooper, Antonio Cervantes, Bobby Chacon.

Sept. 1973: Ali's Revenge? Muhammad Ali vs. Ken Norton—The Battle Of Broken Jaw. Plus: Frazier-Bugner, Shavers-Ellis, Chacon-Olivares, Terrell-Wepner, Monzon-Griffith.

Dec. 1974: Where Do We Go From Zaire? Plus: Bob Foster, Napoles-Lewis, Angel Mayoral, new faces, Sam Taub, Lopez-Toyoshima.

Dec. 1975: Inside Story! Ali-Frazier Super Fite III. Plus: Kotey-Olivares, Escalera-Hernandez, Lyle-Shavers, Briscoe-Gregory, Ray Robinson, Jack Schmeling.

Jan. 1976: Foreman Next For Ali? Plus: Ken Norton, Arguello-Kobayashi, Johnson-Dunn, Duran-Viruet, Jose Napoles, Lou Nova.



JANUARY 1976

Feb. 1976: Today's Champs—Rated Pound For Pound. Plus: Madison Square Garden, Briscoe-Hart, Ray Lampkin, Dempsey-Gibbons, Antonio Cervantes, Georges Carpentier.

Sept. 1977: Norton-Young: Winner To Fight Ali! Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael and Leon Spinks, John Tate, Palomino-Green, Galindez-Kates II, Wilfredo Gomez, Irish-American fighters.

Nov. 1977: Monzon Retires. Plus: Next middleweight king?, Arguello-Fernandez, Benitez-Guerrero, Mattioli-Dagge, Palacios-Muniz.

Nov. 1978: Fifteen Top Heavyweights: Which Have A Chance At Crown? Plus: Bob Arum, Mickey Walker, Hagler-Briscoe, Fernandez-Arguello, Vorasingh-Estaba.

July 1979: Foreman Exclusive: Preach Or Punch? Plus: Mike Weaver, Jack Sharkey, Galindez-Rossman II, Franklin-Johnson II, Jorge Lujan, Watt-Pitalua, Chacon-Limon II, Conteh-Burnett, Leonard-Viruet, federal commission?

Nov. 1979: Leonard: Sweet Enough To Be Called "Sugar Ray"? Plus: Wilfred Benitez, Willie Pep, 10 worst heavyweights, Monzon comeback?, Cuevas-Shields, Leonard-Ranzany, Muhammad-Conteh, Hilmer Kenty.

Dec. 1979: What's Next For Larry Holmes? Plus: Holmes-Shavers II, Pipino Cuevas, Thomas Hearns, Arum & King, Leonard-Price, Gomez-Mendoza.

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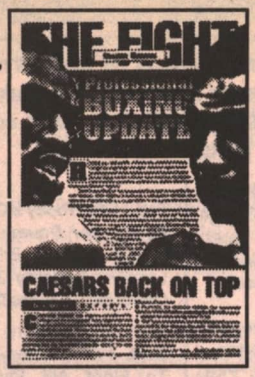

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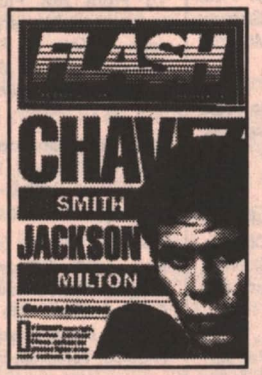

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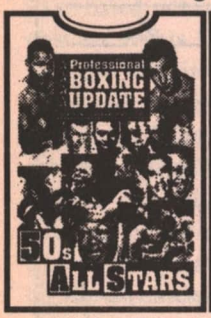

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Time Capsules

(Continued from page 66)

he's got about $100,000 still in the bank. "I don't care for all that phony publicity that goes with the title," Pastor says. "I just want to win it to prove to myself that I can beat Louis." He never talked himself into the championship, but the strange, intensive conviction that he would whip Joe Louis made Bob the fighter he was. It sustained him as a top-rated heavyweight, and it was also a more urgent incentive for lifting him off the canvas than his unquestioned courage and fighting instinct.

Significantly, Pastor was the only opponent who lasted longer with Louis in a return match. In their initial match, on January 27, 1937, Bob's cunning, publicity-hungry manager, "Iron Hat" Jimmy Johnston (he always wore a black derby), was feuding with boxing's top power-broker and Louis' promoter, Mike Jacobs. Believing his Bobby hadn't a chance for survival against the "Brown Bomber," Johnston selfishly targeted Jacobs for vengeance by trying to make Louis look bad. The only way to do that, reasoned Johnston, was to send his Bobby into the fray with strict orders never to exchange punches with Joe, to stick and run and run again. Pastor bitterly protested his master's cowardly strategy, but like a good soldier he followed orders, and through the entire 10 rounds he danced circles and backpedaled around the increasingly frustrated Louis. Joe won the deserved, unanimous decision, and on Pastor was bestowed the pair of unenviable tags that forever haunted him: "Bicycle Bob" and "Rapid Robert."

"Maybe I pulled a boner by not listening to Robert," Johnston later admitted. "Louis was bad that night, and my Robert might've licked him on points. I didn't know Robert was that good, and besides, I was afraid I'd have a dead fighter on my hands if Louis hit him."

The return match, on September 20, 1939, in Detroit, this time for the championship, saw Pastor give an astonishing performance. Louis, still brooding over his ineptness against Bob two years earlier, roared out of his corner and unleashed the most savage, ruthless barrage since his one-round destruction of Max Schmeling in 1938. Pastor was floored four times in round one and once in round two, but, unbelievably, he somehow survived. Going into round 11, Bob had officially won four rounds. And he had repeatedly staggered the champion in rounds eight, nine, and 10. He still had a chance; this was a scheduled 20-rounder (not since Jack Dempsey kayoed Jess Willard to become champion 20 years earlier, back in 1919, had any bout been slated to go beyond 15 rounds), and Pastor appeared in better shape than the Bomber. But only a little over 30 seconds into the 11th, Louis unloaded a desperation right, and Pastor, blinded by an eye cut, caught it flush on the point of the chin and was counted out for the first time in his career.

Joe Louis was the man who made Bob Pastor a good, if not precisely great, heavyweight. Pastor's unwavering belief that he could whip Louis was one of the strangest quirks of our time. But you can't kill a man for trying. After all, Louis himself couldn't do it.

When Robert Pastor died of pneumonia on January 26, 1996, in a Saratoga Springs, New York, nursing home at age 82, "The Old Gray Lady" of American journalism, *The New York Times*, paid final tribute in its obituary section with a glowing send-off that ran a full four inches, unusually long for a former pugilistic *non*-Hall of Famer and *non*-world champion. (When the great, twice world lightweight champion and Hall of Famer, Lou Ambers, died recently, *The Times* completely ignored that milestone.)

Perhaps this is the time to reveal why Pastor always tried to box at long range, a rigidly guarded secret known only to those closest to him and never mentioned in the press. He was plagued by chronic farsightedness, an affliction that could be particularly devastating to a prize fighter. Can you imagine being in range of Joe Louis' deadly, lightning-fast punches and seeing only blurs? One would have a better chance of survival straying into a bear trap.

On life's final balance sheet, Bicycle Bob Pastor finally beat Joe Louis, outliving the Brown Bomber by a whopping 15 years. Nothing succeeds like unyielding determination. Not even when handicapped. ■

BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

Go get your calendar. Never mind why, just go get it. I'll wait.

Okay, now turn to June, and mark the 7th through the 9th. For collectors, that is *the* weekend, and Canastota, New York, is *the* place. It is Induction Weekend at the International Boxing Hall of Fame. If you collect boxing memorabilia and can afford to make the trip, do not miss it.

This will be the seventh such weekend at the IBHF. The class of inductees includes "Old Bones" Joe Brown, Wilfred Benitez, Emanuel Steward, and Aaron Pryor. All have pledged to attend. For autograph collectors and fans who just want to get a souvenir signature, these greats will be in Canastota signing, as will 15 to 20 other past greats and current stars.

The weekend includes many events, including "Ringside Lectures" on the grounds, a live boxing show, and a press conference. And that's just on Friday. Saturday, June 8, is a very special day for collectors because there will be the annual collectors show and sale at Canastota High School. This is my seventh year, too; I've been there since the beginning.

Fifty to 100 tables are set up with the most extraordinary array of boxing memorabilia you are likely to ever see. And if *you* have a piece to sell or trade, consider yourself invited to attend by the most avid collectors and dealers in the hobby. If you can't find it at this show, you aren't looking. There are photos that can later be signed, and the fighters make the scene to offer autographs.

That evening is the Banquet of Champions. There'll be some pretty good food and a dais full of fighters who will recall what it was like to be a champion—and what it's like to be in Canastota, surrounded by other greats.

Sunday is the induction ceremony, which is always moving and memorable.

But for collectors, there is so much more. There has grown a virtual community of collectors who would probably attend even if there wasn't a fighter to be seen. The people care about the sport and their hobby, and have become fast friends.

You should talk to this bunch. From Bill Schutte, who knows almost everything about fighters who fought before 1920, to Ray McCormack, who knows just about everything else. From Bad Bob Shepard, who collects only Dempsey stuff, to Craig Hamilton, who can authenticate equipment others can't even recognize. There are dealers like Philly Frank McClain, who has an enormous inventory of eclectic material, Jay Seidman and Stu Levine, who have new stuff at cheap prices, and 30 others who are *really* going to be angry that I didn't mention them in one or the other of the aforementioned categories.

And if collecting isn't what you want to talk about, there's plenty of time to engage some of the celebrities in a bit of conversation. Graziano's restaurant is the hub of evening activity, and for us old-timers, it feels like home.

The IBHF sells a package that includes all of the above, food, and lodging in the area for $375, or $300 each for double occupancy. If you choose not to purchase the package, be warned: Rooms are extremely hard to come by, and you'll need to buy tickets to individual events.

Of course, yours truly will be there with *Boxing Collectors' News*. I can hardly wait to meet Joe Brown, as well as some of my subscribers. And maybe I'll find one of those Joe Louis programs I need. All in all, I can't wait.

For more information, call the International Boxing Hall of Fame at (315) 697-7095. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collectors' News*** *and may be contacted through* THE RING.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the IBF ratings were compiled as of February 1996, WBC and WBA ratings were compiled as of December 1995.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Frank Bruno (GB)	C	–	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	C	–
Francois Botha (SA)	–	–	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	1
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	3	7
Oliver McCall (USA)	3	–	2
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	4	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	5	2	4
Alexandr Zolkin (RUS)	6	8	–
Jeremy Williams (USA)	7	–	–
Larry Donald (USA)	8	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	9	–	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	10	9	8
Michael Moorer (USA)	11	5	–
Lionel Butler (USA)	–	6	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	21	7	6
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	17	10	–
Corrie Sanders (SA)	12	–	3
Axel Schulz (GER)	–	–	5
Buster Mathis Jr. (USA)	16	–	9
Obed Sullivan (USA)	–	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	1	2	4
Torsten May (GER)	2	7	2
Robert Daniels (USA)	3	4	8
David Izeqwire (NIG)	4	12	7
Patrice Aouissi (FRA)	5	5	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	6	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	7	–	9
Carl Thompson (GB)	8	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	9	–	–
Brian Laspada (USA)	10	8	3
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	1	1
Orlin Norris (USA)	14	3	–
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	11	6	–
Przemyslaw Saleta (POL)	–	9	–
Reynaldo Gimenez (ARG)	23	10	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	5
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	26	–	6
Chris Okoh (GB)	19	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	1	1	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	2	6	3
Mike McCallum (USA)	3	4	5
Merqui Sosa (DR)	4	7	–
Jose Gomez (BRA)	5	12	–
Crawford Ashley (GB)	6	–	–
Nicky Piper (GB)	7	–	–
Andrea Magi (ITA)	8	–	–
Maurice Core (GB)	9	–	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	10	–	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	2	1
Lou Del Valle (USA)	17	3	7
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	5	–
William Guthrie (USA)	25	8	2
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	9	12
Anthony Begini (NZ)	–	10	–
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	4
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	–	–	6
Richard Hall (USA)	–	–	8
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	12	–	9
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	–	11	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Thulane Malinga (SA)	1	3	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	2	–	–
Luciano Torres (BRA)	3	2	12
Bryant Brannon (USA)	4	4	1
Tim Littles (USA)	5	1	–
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	6	8	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	7	–	–
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	8	–	–
Jean-Claude M'biye (FRA)	9	–	4
Sam Storey (IRE)	10	–	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	5	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	6	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	–	7	8
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	15	9	–
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	10	–
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	–	–	2
Frank Rhodes (USA)	–	–	3
Steve Little (USA)	–	–	5
Eric Lucas (CAN)	–	–	6
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	–	7
Tony Byrd (USA)	–	12	9
Glen Johnson (USA)	27	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Quincy Taylor (USA)	C	–	–
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Richie Woodhall (GB)	1	8	9
Joe Lipsey (USA)	2	7	1
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	3	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	4	–	5
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	5	–	–
Julian Jackson (USA)	6	–	–
Otis Grant (CAN)	7	10	–
John David Jackson (USA)	8	3	3
Reggie Johnson (USA)	9	4	–
Robert Allen (USA)	10	–	4
William Joppy (USA)	15	1	2
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	2	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	5	–
Chongmo Kim (KOR)	–	6	–
Ricardo Nunez (ARG)	–	9	–
Neville Brown (GB)	14	–	6
Lloyd Bryan (USA)	–	–	7
Alex Rios (USA)	–	–	8
Juan Viloria (COL)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	C
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	1	5	10
Bronco McKart (USA)	2	3	–
Winky Wright (USA)	3	1	–
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	4	–	–
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	5	–	–
Godfrey Nyakana (UGA)	6	8	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	7	7	–
Andrew Council (USA)	8	12	6
Raul Marquez (USA)	9	–	2
Luis Santana (DR)	10	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	2	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	4	7
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	–	6	–
Johnson Tshuma (SA)	–	9	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	10	4
Keith Holmes (USA)	11	–	1
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	11	3
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	–	5
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	14	–	8
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	1	4	1
Oba Carr (USA)	2	1	2
Vincent Phillips (USA)	3	–	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	4	5	8
Gary Jacobs (GB)	5	7	6
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	6	6	4
Grahame Cheney (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Lonnie Smith (USA)	8	–	–
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	9	–	12
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	10	10	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	16	2	–
Alejandro Ugueto (VEN)	–	3	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	14	8	7
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	9	–
Edwin Murillo (PAN)	–	–	3
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	–	5
Jorge Alvez (ARG)	–	–	9

Ray Lovato (USA)	22	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
Jan Bergman (SA)	1	5	1
David Kamau (USA)	2	6	3
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	3	1	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	4	4	2
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	5	–	9
Charles Murray (USA)	6	8	7
Paul Ryan (GB)	7	–	10
Giovanni Parisi (ITA)	8	–	–
Freddie Ladd (USA)	9	3	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	10	–	–
Juan Coggi (ARG)	–	2	–
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	–	7	–
Ross Hale (GB)	17	9	6
Hiromu Kuwata (JAP)	24	10	–
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	4
Michele Piccirillo (ITA)	22	–	5
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	8

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	–	C
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	1	8	5
Steve Johnston (USA)	2	6	8
Lamar Murphy (USA)	3	–	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	4	–	–
Angel Mona (FRA)	5	7	–
Ivan Robinson (USA)	6	10	2
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	7	–	–
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	8	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	9	3	–
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	10	–	–
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	–	1	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	2	11
Raul H. Balbi (ARG)	–	4	–
Joey Gamache (USA)	–	5	–
Antonio Rivera (PR)	–	9	–
John Lark (USA)	–	–	1
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	–	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	–	–	4
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	27	–	6
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	–	–	7
Joel Perez (USA)	–	–	9
Hector Tejeda (ARG)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	1	2	6
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	2	–	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	3	–	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	4	5	9
Pedro Gutierrez (ARG)	5	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	6	3	8
Floyd Havard (GB)	7	–	–
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	8	–	4
Rafael Meran (DR)	9	–	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	10	–	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	1	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	6	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	–	7	–
Edson Suxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	8	–
Ulrich Johnson (TRIN)	–	9	–
Masuaki Takeda (JAP)	–	10	–
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	1
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	2
Robert Garcia (USA)	14	–	3
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	–	–	5
Cliff Samardin (AUSTRL)	18	–	7
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinoza (PHIL)	C	–	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	3	–	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	4	–	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	5	3	1
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	6	–	2
Kevin Kelley (USA)	7	–	–
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	8	–	–
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	9	5	–
Billy Hardy (GB)	10	7	5
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	16	1	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	2	7
Cesar Soto (PAN)	–	4	–
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	6	–
Jun Gorres (PHIL)	28	8	–
Victor Polo (COL)	25	9	9
Derrick Gainer (USA)	12	10	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	15	–	3
David Santos (USA)	13	–	4
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	12	6
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	–	–	8
Mike Garcia (USA)	29	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	1	–	–
Erik Morales (MEX)	2	5	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	3	–	–
Julio Gervacio (DR)	4	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	5	–	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	6	2	7
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	7	8	–
Junior Jones (USA)	8	6	8
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	9	11	–
Enrique Jupiter (MEX)	10	–	–
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	1	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	29	3	9
Alex Pak (THAI)	–	4	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	–	7	–
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	–	9	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	11	10	–
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	12	–	2
Anton Gilmore (SA)	13	–	3
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	4
Daniel Alicer (PR)	–	–	5
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	16	–	6
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	C	–	–
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	1	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	2	–	–
John Armour (GB)	3	8	4
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	4	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	5	–	–
Ancee Gedeon (USA)	6	–	1
In Jin Chi (KOR)	7	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	8	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	9	11	5
Somboon Pantasi (THAI)	10	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	1	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	2	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	3	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	4	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	–	5	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	15	6	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	13	7	–
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	26	9	–
Angel Chacon (PR)	–	10	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	12	2
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	3
Torsak Pongsopha (THAI)	–	–	6
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	7
Sergio Reyes (USA)	25	–	8
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	9
Jorge Eliecer Julio (COL)	19	–	10

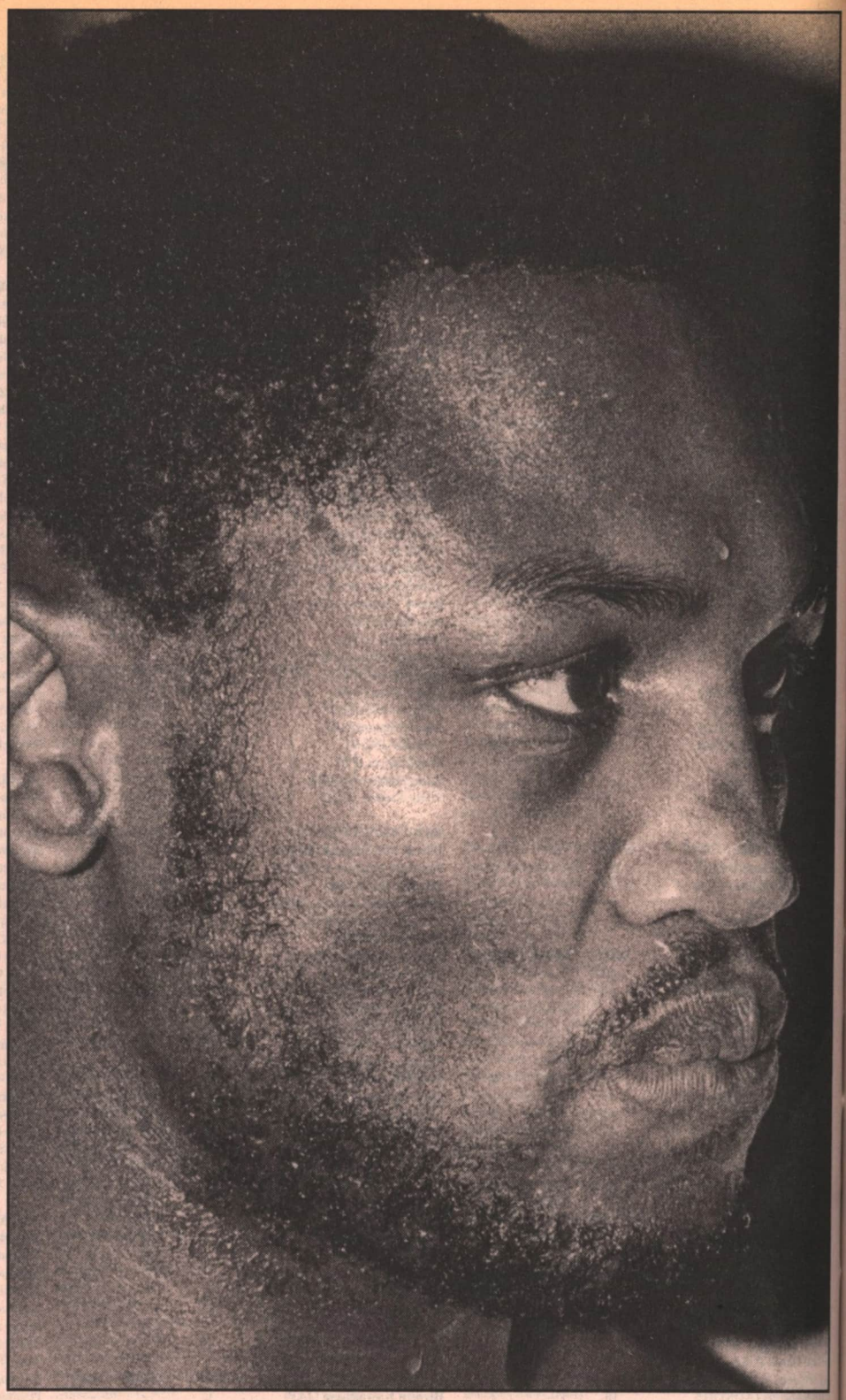
JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	C	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	–	–	C
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	1	7	8
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	5	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	3	–	–
David Griman (VEN)	4	2	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	5	3	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	6	–	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	7	4	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	8	9	–
Domingo Sosa (DR)	9	–	–
Angel Rosario (PR)	10	–	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	1	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	6	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	8	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	11	10	–
Jaji Sibali (SA)	26	–	1
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	2
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	3
Andy Agosto (PR)	–	–	4
Jose Diaz (USA)	–	–	5
Ricky Matulessi (INDO)	–	–	6
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	21	–	7
Orlando Tobon (COL)	–	–	9
Cesar Singo (EQU)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Mark Johnson (USA)	1	12	1
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	2	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	3	10	9
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	4	2	–
Daniel Ward (SA)	5	5	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	6	3	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	7	–	11
Luigi Camputaro (ITA)	8	–	–
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	9	–	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	4	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	29	6	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	22	7	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	8	5
Luis Benavides (COL)	–	9	–
Robbie Regan (GB)	14	–	2
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	3
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	–	–	4
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	6
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	16	–	7
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	8
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	9	1
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	6
Michael Carbajal (USA)	3	2	2
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	4	6	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	5	7	4
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	6	–	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	7	5	–
Yamil Caraballo (COL)	8	–	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha-Poontarat (THAI)	9	–	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	10	10	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	1	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	3	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	4	–
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	8	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	3
P.S. Wonjongkam (THAI)	–	–	5
Yani Malhendo (INDO)	–	–	7
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	16	–	8
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	9
James Wanene (KEN)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	3	6
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	1	7
Rocky Lin (JAP)	3	4	9
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	4	5	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	5	6	–
Yodsing Saengmorokot (THAI)	6	–	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	7	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	8	–	1
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	9	–	–
Nungdiew Sakcharporn (THAI)	10	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	2	–
Antonio Perez (MEX)	–	7	–
Eric Chavez (PHIL)	–	8	–
Yamil Caraballo (COL)	–	9	–
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	14	10	2
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	12	3
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	–	4
Lee Salvador (NIC)	–	–	5
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	8
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	–	–	10

CLASSIC



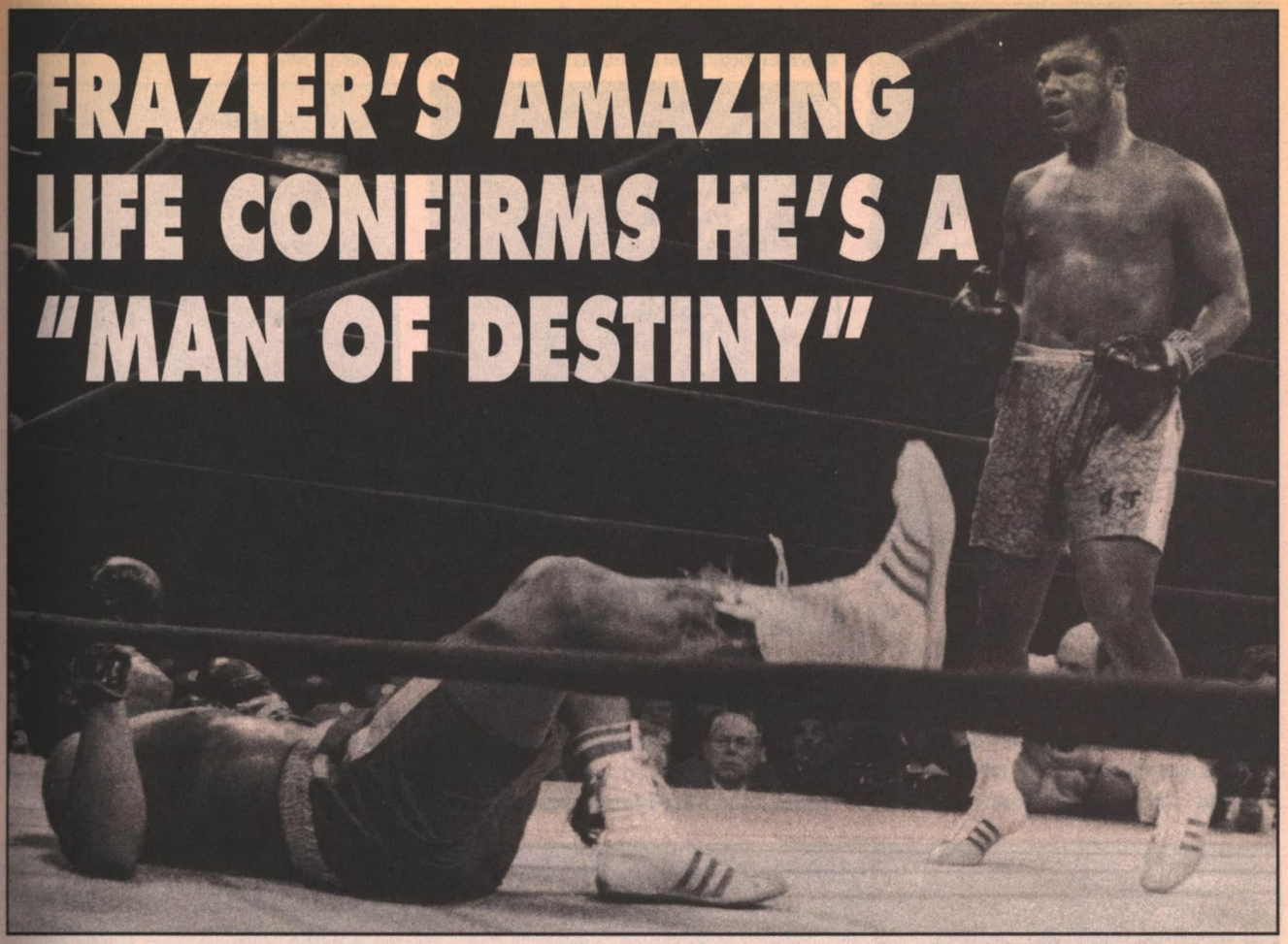
From The Ring, July 1971

By George Girsch

The poignant story in the early life of 27-year-old world heavyweight champion Joe Frazier was Poverty.

There was Dolly, the mother, now 62, and still living in Beaufort, South Carolina, where Joe was born; there was the father of the brood, who lost his left arm in a car accident before the titleholder arrived, and who died in 1965; there are six brothers and three sisters; and some few other Fraziers scattered about.

FRAZIER'S AMAZING LIFE CONFIRMS HE'S A "MAN OF DESTINY"



Frazier's 15th-round knockdown of Muhammad Ali cemented his victory in "The Fight Of The Century." Frazier has always believed he was a man of destiny. Indeed, from the opening bell, he seemed destined to issue Ali the first defeat of "The Greatest's" career.

Dolly had 13 children.

It was rank Poverty, with all of the Fraziers who qualified for work hard at it from sunup until sundown, picking vegetables for 15 cents a basket.

Now Mom raises chickens and sells eggs, and soon will have her own new home, to be paid for by her champion son.

The records in Beaufort, a 400-year-old town of 15,000, show that Joe was born on January 12, 1944.

Joe did not get much schooling. He finally dropped out, convinced that he was getting nothing out of it, and it was getting nothing out of him.

There was a radio in the Frazier home. Later a television receiver. Joe liked fights. He watched them on TV and became the boy oracle of the fistic experts on the farms. He especially liked showings of *Fight Of The Century*. He also saw live fights featuring Ray Robinson and Floyd Patterson.

Maybe young Joe had heard about Abe Lincoln, maybe even about Booker Washington. Now there is a portrait of John F. Kennedy in the Frazier living room at Beaufort.

However, Joe's boyhood hero was Joe Louis. "The Brown Bomber" was Joe's shining example in everything that went into the making of victory, especially in ring success.

Beaufort was not fertile ground for a youngster with fistic ideas. There was no gymnasium for a Negro kid to train in, and there is none now. Joe is trying to collect enough money to build an integrated play center for kids.

Joe knew that if was to succeed in his boxing ambitions, he would have to go to New York or Philadelphia.

With $180 in his wallet, Frazier finally told the Bellamy vegetable fields farewell and boarded a bus for Gotham.

Joe did not linger in New York. He moved down to Philadelphia, and it was there, at age 16, that he married his school days sweetheart, Florence.

In Philadelphia, he became interested in amateur boxing. Yancy Durham, now his trainer and adviser, spotted Joe and took him in hand. They have been very good for each other.

About his Beaufort history, Joe Frazier has little to tell. Could be there was nothing to talk about, just work in the fields during the warm season, just double-poverty during the South Carolina winter, which is short and rarely harsh.

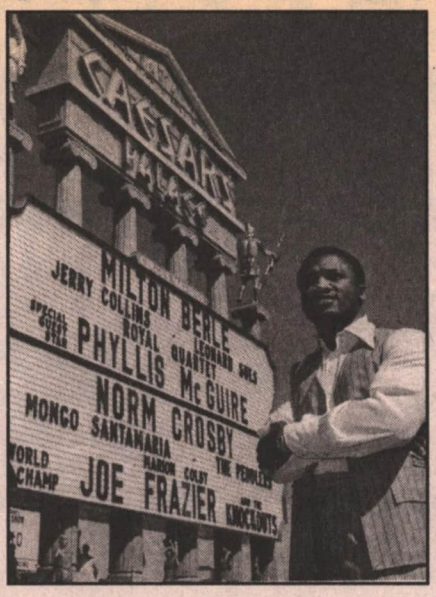
Joe recollects that his brother Bozo was the champion radish picker in the Trask fields. Most of the Fraziers worked for the Trasks, but Joe and his dad owed their allegiance to the Bellamy outfit.

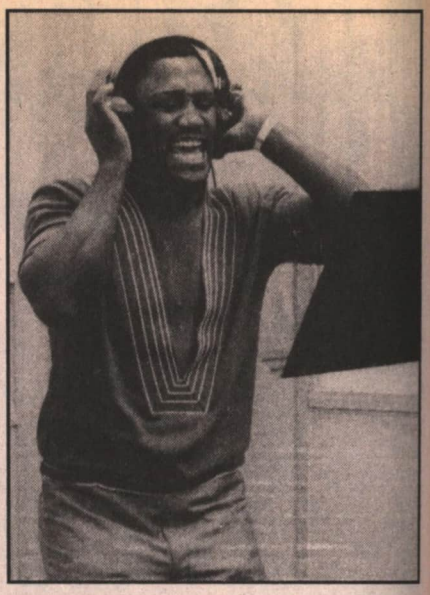
Joe got hold of some canvas and filled a bag with Spanish moss and worked on it whenever he had a chance.

About his Beaufort friends, Joe has little to talk about. Nor does he talk about his family life now. He is away from home so much, with his Knockouts when his isn't training for a fight.

Frazier arrives in London's Heathrow Airport with wife Florence. "Smokin' Joe" was en route to Belfast, Ireland, where he'll be performing with his band, The Knockouts.

Okay, so he didn't get billing above Milton Berle at Caesars Palace, but at least the heavyweight champion made the marquee (left). Frazier has been spending lots of time with his music. Will it affect his focus when he returns to the ring to again defend his title?



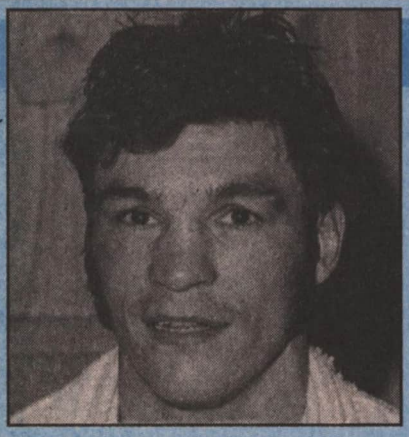


Efforts to get Frazier to talk about his wife and kids and family life never are successful. He believes he is entitled to so much privacy that questions about his five kids and Florence constitute an invasion.

He does not like anybody to interview his wife. She has indicated that she would like to see more of her husband. She is neither dressy nor frilly.

Could be Mrs. Frazier would shed no tears if Joe were to retire.

However, if he quit the ring, there would be the Knockouts. The question is, how would the act fare if Joe no longer had the benefit of his ring publicity and the



Billy Backus

THE RING RATINGS, *July 1971*

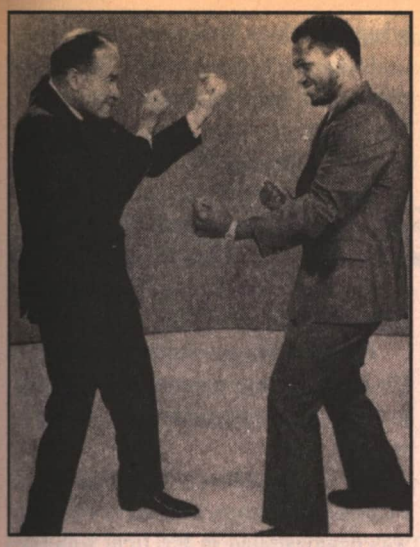
HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Frazier, Philadelphia, PA
1. **Cassius Clay,** Louisville, KY
2. **George Foreman,** Hayward, CA
3. **Oscar Bonavena,** Argentina
4. **Jerry Quarry,** Los Angeles, CA
5. **Mac Foster,** Fresno, CA
6. **George Chuvalo,** Canada
7. **Joe Bugner,** England
8. **Jose Luis Garcia,** Venezuela
9. **Floyd Patterson,** New York, NY
10. **Jose Ibar Urtain,** Spain

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Bob Foster, Washington, D.C.
1. **Vicente Rondon,** Venezuela
2. **Gomeo Brennan,** Bahamas
3. **Jimmy Dupree,** Jersey City, NJ
4. **Hal Carroll,** Syracuse, NY
5. **Conny Velensek,** Germany
6. **Andy Kendall,** Portland, OR
7. **Mike Quarry,** Los Angeles, CA
8. **Dick Tiger,** Nigeria
9. **Mark Tessman,** Houston, TX
10. **Piero Del Papa,** Italy

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Monzon, Argentina
1. **Emile Griffith,** New York, NY
2. **Nino Benvenuti,** Italy
3. **Luis Rodriguez,** Miami Beach, FL
4. **Juan Carlos Duran,** Italy
5. **Pierre Fourie,** South Africa
6. **Carmelo Bossi,** Italy
7. **Jose Chirino,** Argentina
8. **Nessim (Max) Cohen,** France
9. **Denny Moyer,** Portland, OR
10. **Tom Bogs,** Denmark

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Billy Backus, Syracuse, NY
1. **Adolph Pruitt,** St. Louis, MO
2. **Jose Napoles,** Mexico
3. **Ernie Lopez,** Las Vegas, NV
4. **Percy Pugh,** New Orleans, LA
5. **Marcel Cerdan,** France
6. **Clyde Gray,** Canada
7. **Robert Gallois,** France
8. **Hedgemon Lewis,** Detroit, MI
9. **Ralph Charles,** England
10. **Donato Paduano,** Canada

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Nicolino Locche, Argentina
1. **Bruno Arcari,** Italy
2. **Eddie Perkins,** Chicago, IL
3. **Bunny Grant,** Jamaica
4. **Joao Henrique,** Brazil



You know you're really a major celebrity when you're invited to appear on one of Bob Hope's TV specials. Hope was once a boxer, but judging by his stance, we don't think he's going to be much of a threat to Frazier's reign.

world championship?

How must Frazier now trade on his title and his position in furthering the demand for the Knockouts, and advancing the notion that, as Joe himself believes, he is truly a professional singer?

The Knockouts and a singing career have become Frazier obsessions.

He talks a lot about achieving a hit record. He calls it his next big challenge. Fighting, he says, no longer is that, now that he has beaten Cassius Clay.

Frazier denies vehemently that he has any serious intention to retire even before a second meeting with Clay. This is set, temporarily, for early-1972. Cassius says he will quit after that. At 29, he adds, a man's got to think about things other than those pugilistic.

Frazier talks about doing the right thing by heavyweights who look to the title for their just rewards.

He talks about contenders being entitled to a taste of the dollar. He discusses the championship from facets that Clay never has considered. Cassius never has respected anybody but himself in his association with boxing, its financial returns, and his responsibilities to it.

Frazier may not be intensely religious, but he does give thanks to a Kindly Providence for lifting him out of the South Carolina bean fields, out of Beaufort, out of the $75-a-week job that he had with a Philadelphia slaughterhouse, into the Olympic title, and eventually, the world championship.

Joe believes he is a man of destiny. His history leads him to that belief. For instance:

His big break in getting the chance to represent the United States in the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, after he had lost to Buster Mathis in the Trials for the American team.

Mathis' thumb fracture in the bout with Frazier, forcing Buster off the U.S. team and giving the heavyweight spot to Joe.

Frazier's winning the Olympic championship and coming back to Philadelphia a hero.

Frazier's turning pro under Durham, and fighting his way to one knockout victory after another, so that today he shows 27 victories in 27 starts, with 23 by kayo, and 18 of them inside five rounds.

Joe's becoming a millionaire, with the

5. **Jimmy Robertson**, San Francisco, CA
6. **Sandro Lopopolo**, Italy
7. **Ely Yares**, Philippines
8. **Enrique Jana**, Argentina
9. **Lion Furuyama**, Japan
10. **Nate Robinson**, Los Angeles, CA

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: Ken Buchanan, Scotland

1. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
2. **Pedro Carrasco**, Spain
3. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
4. **Al Ford**, Canada
5. **Mando Ramos**, Long Beach, CA
6. **Miguel Velazquez**, Spain
7. **Shinichi Kadota**, Japan
8. **Chango Carmona**, Mexico
9. **Sugar Ramos**, Mexico
10. **Antonio Cervantes**, Colombia

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: Hiroshi Kobayashi, Japan

1. **Yoshiaki Numata**, Japan
2. **Antonio Amaya**, Panama
3. **Ruben Navarro**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Antonio Puddu**, Italy
5. **Rene Barrientos**, Philippines
6. **Frankie Otero**, Miami Beach, FL
7. **Sammy Goss**, Trenton, NJ
8. **Frankie Crawford**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Armando Mendoza**, Venezuela
10. **Jose Acosta**, Venezuela

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Kuniaki Shibata, Japan

1. **Shozo Saijyo**, Japan
2. **Jose Legra**, Spain
3. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
4. **Antonio Gomez**, Venezuela
5. **Raul Cruz**, Mexico
6. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil
7. **Ricardo Arredondo**, Mexico
8. **Ernesto Marcel**, Panama
9. **Jimmy Revie**, England
10. **Jose Luis Pimental**, San Antonio, TX

BANTAMWEIGHTS

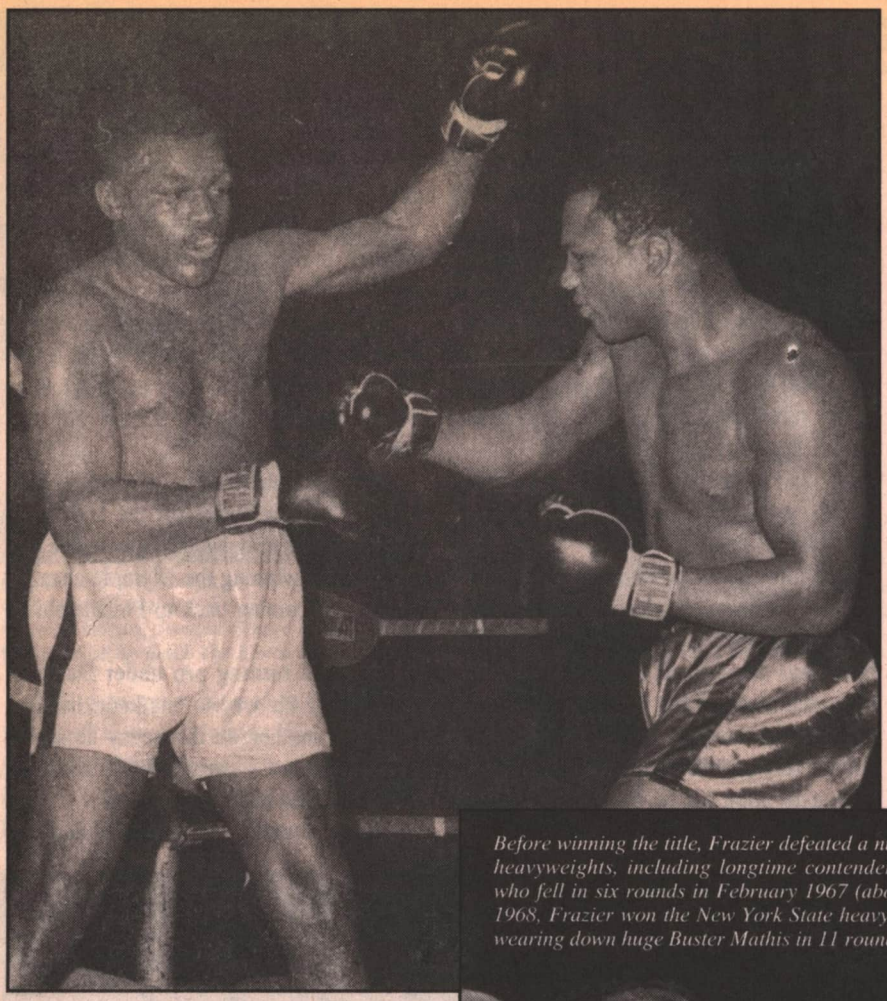
World Champ: Ruben Olivares, Mexico

1. **Chucho Castillo**, Mexico
2. **Jesus Pimental**, Mexico
3. **Rafael Herrera**, Mexico
4. **Ramon Bravo**, Venezuela
5. **Alan Rudkin**, England
6. **Franco Zurlo**, Italy
7. **Rodolfo Martinez**, Mexico
8. **Ushiwakamaru Harada**, Japan
9. **Julio Guerrero**, Mexico
10. **Salvador Lozano**, Costa Rica

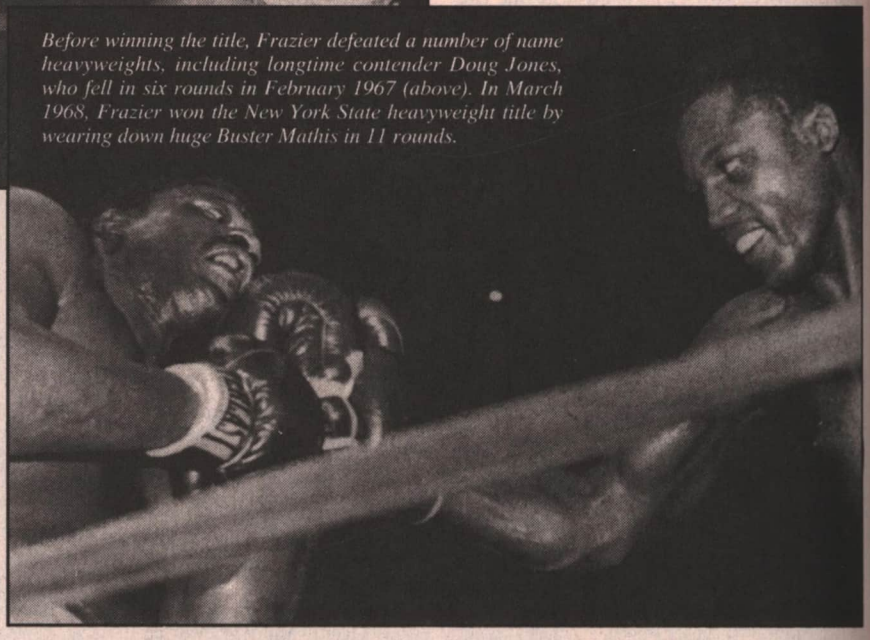
FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Erbito Salavarria, Philippines

1. **Masao Ohba**, Japan
2. **Betulio Gonzalez**, Venezuela
3. **Ricardo Delgado**, Mexico
4. **Octavio Gomez**, Mexico
5. **Chatchai Chionoi**, Thailand
6. **Efren Torres**, Mexico
7. **Lorenzo Gutierrez**, Mexico
8. **Venice Borkorsor**, Thailand
9. **Cesar Desiga**, Mexico
10. **Orlando Amores**, Panama



Before winning the title, Frazier defeated a number of name heavyweights, including longtime contender Doug Jones, who fell in six rounds in February 1967 (above). In March 1968, Frazier won the New York State heavyweight title by wearing down huge Buster Mathis in 11 rounds.



when he took on Bonavena.

Oscar decked Joe twice. But after 30 minutes of fighting, Frazier was declared the winner.

Three more knockouts, and then Frazier suffered a severe disappointment in his 10-rounder with Johnson, an unrated fighter.

Scrapiron had been knocked out by Andy Kendall, Thad Spencer, Amos Lincoln, and Jerry Quarry.

Frazier is not a polished, adroit fighter. He features few niceties. He is strong, given to bull-like rushes and boring-in, wearing tactics.

Joe's comparatively short reach—73⅓ inches—handicaps him somewhat. This was demonstrated in the fight with Clay, whose reach measures 82 inches. Sonny Liston's was 84, but Rocky Marciano was able to wreak havoc with 68, and Floyd Patterson still is around with 71.

Frazier's height of 5'11½" could be a handicap. His weight for Clay, 205 pounds, is about right.

aid of a remarkable association with a syndicate of backers called Cloverlay Inc.

Cloverlay, with which Frazier has a contract through '74, gets 45 percent of his earnings. But he has not expressed regrets over being forced to give up this considerable percentage. There have been reports of dissatisfaction by Joe with the Cloverlay arrangement, but he never has uttered a complaint for publication.

Frazier has been good for boxing. That, like Cassius Clay, he will turn sour is most unlikely. Joe is not a producer of racial animosities. He believes that the whites and the blacks can live in harmony, for the common good of the United States of America.

Joe does not bear the Black Muslim stamp that Clay has gloried in.

A review of Frazier's fistic record plays up the 15-round victory over Clay; the five-round kayo of Jimmy Ellis, who had won the WBA elimination tournament and proved utterly no match for Joe; his two victories over Oscar Bonavena, in 10 rounds in New York, and 15 in Philadelphia; the seven-round knockout of Jerry Quarry; the four-round kayo of George Chuvalo; the 11-round stoppage of Buster Mathis; and the two-round quietus that he hung on Manuel Ramos, who turned out to be a Mexican false alarm.

Bonavena, twice, and George Johnson, who lasted the scheduled rounds in Los Angeles, are the only Frazier foes other than Clay who have lasted the scheduled distance.

Joe had 11 knockout victories in a row

Frazier is a vicious hooker. Not a jabber. For his second fight with Clay, which will take place next year in Jack Kent Cooke's Forum near Los Angeles—if Cassius doesn't go to the pen—Frazier will have to school himself better in the secrets of pace.

Frazier goes all-out from the opening bell. He never let up against Cassius. The result was that this supposedly tireless, powerful man exhausted himself.

Suffering from physical and nervous

exhaustion at the end of round 15, Joe went into high blood pressure and athlete's kidney, with its urination of blood.

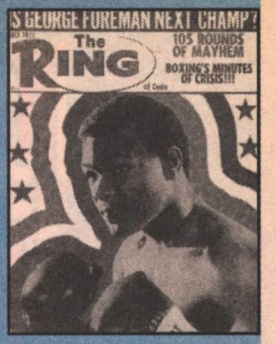
If the Clay fight takes place, Joe should win again. That is, if his preoccupation with the Knockouts and the night club showman's life is kept in check. ■

JOE FRAZIER'S CAREER RECORD

1965		
Aug. 16	Woody Goss, Philadelphia	KO 1
Sept. 20	Mike Bruce, Philadelphia	KO 3
Sept. 28	Ray Staples, Philadelphia	KO 2
Nov. 11	Abe Davis, Philadelphia	KO 1
1966		
Jan. 17	Mel Turnbow, Philadelphia	KO 1
March 4	Dick Wipperman, New York City	KO 5
April 4	Charley Polite, Philadelphia	KO 2
April 28	Don Toro Smith, Philadelphia	KO 3
May 19	Chuck Leslie, Los Angeles	KO 3
May 26	Al Jones, Los Angeles	KO 1
July 25	Billy Daniels, Philadelphia	KO 6
Sept. 21	Oscar Bonavena, New York City	W 10
Nov. 21	Eddie Machen, Los Angeles	KO 10
1967		
Feb. 21	Doug Jones, Philadelphia	KO 6
April 11	Jefferson Davis, Miami Beach	KO 5
May 4	George Johnson, Los Angeles	W 10
July 19	George Chuvalo, New York City	KO 4
Oct. 17	Tony Doyle, Philadelphia	KO 2
Dec. 18	Marion Connors, Boston	KO 3
1968		
March 4	Buster Mathis, New York City *(Wins Heavyweight Title)*	KO 11
June 24	Manuel Ramos, New York City *(Retains Heavyweight Title)*	KO 2
Dec. 10	Oscar Bonavena, Philadelphia *(Retains Heavyweight Title)*	W 15
1969		
April 22	Dave Zyglewicz, Houston *(Retains Heavyweight Title)*	KO 1
June 23	Jerry Quarry, New York City *(Retains Heavyweight Title)*	KO 7
1970		
Feb. 16	Jimmy Ellis, New York City *(Retains Heavyweight Title)*	KO 5
Nov. 18	Bob Foster, Detroit *(Retains Heavyweight Title)*	KO 2
March 8	Cassius Clay, New York City *(Retains Heavyweight Title)*	W 15

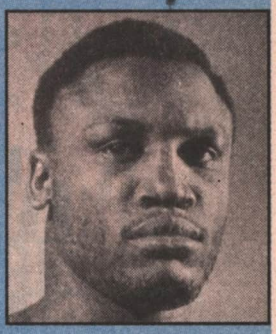
Record: 27-0 with 23 kayos

THE RING, July 1971

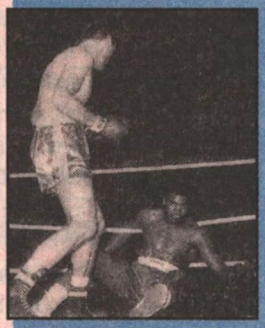


The Cover: Is 1968 Olympic gold medalist George Foreman boxing's next great heavyweight? The towering puncher is 27-0 (24), and has beaten, among others, George Chuvalo, Boone Kirkman, and Scrapiron Johnson. Today is Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali, but tomorrow might be Big George.

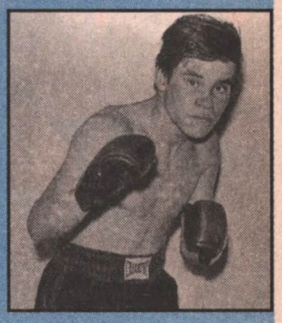
Ruben Redux: Don Fraser reports from ringside as charismatic Mexican bantamweight Ruben Olivares regains the bantamweight title by unanimously outpointing countryman Chucho Castillo before a crowd of 18,456 at the Fabulous Forum. Olivares' keys to victory in this rubber match: excellent conditioning and a more technical approach.



Will Frazier Retire Unbeaten?: As reported by Ted Carroll, heavyweight champion Joe Frazier, who suffers from high blood pressure and was hospitalized following his monumental victory over Muhammad Ali in March, is talking of quitting the ring. If he does, he'll become the first champion to retire undefeated since Rocky Marciano. Frazier is 27.



Minutes Of Crisis: Using the 11th round of the Joe Frazier-Muhammad Ali showdown as a starting point, Nat Loubet examines the moment of truth that seems to surface in every big fight. Among the examples: the fourth round of Cassius Clay-Henry Cooper (pictured) and the first round of Jack Dempsey-Luis Firpo.



Fighter Of The Month: Having regained the bantamweight title, Ruben Olivares is the overwhelming choice. Others who received consideration were light heavyweight champion Bob Foster, who defended against Ray Anderson, and junior welterweight champion Nicolino Locche, who defeated Domingo Corpas, and then announced his retirement.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

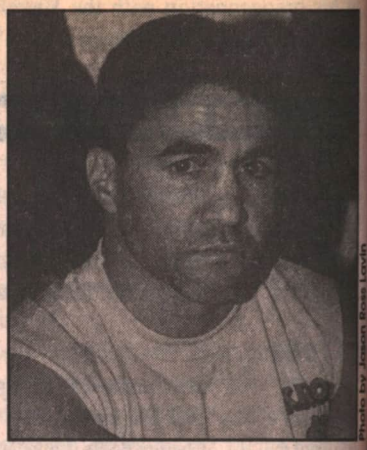


Photo by Joseph Rose Levin

Fenech: Ready for Azumah—again

A THIRD TRY AT HISTORY

When trainer-for-hire Emanuel Steward hooked up with comebacking triple-crown champion Jeff Fenech, there was a lot of talk about how he was going to turn "The White Tyson" into a cool, veteran boxer. So when and if Fenech challenges WBC super featherweight champion Azumah Nelson for a third time, he's going to try the fancy dan approach, right?

"I shouldn't tell you this," Steward, who was training Fenech for a tuneup fight, said from Australia, "but Jeff will be fighting the old style. No way in the world am I stupid enough to change what a man's been so successful at."

Last November, Steward had Fenech box patiently in his first fight after a 3½-year retirement, a stoppage of Tito Tovar. "He needed rounds," said the hall-of-fame trainer. "But after the fourth round, Jeff came back to the corner and said, 'This is so f____' *boring*.'"

In 1992, Nelson's kayo of Fenech crushed the hopes of an entire nation. The bout was the biggest in the history of Australia, and when Nelson, who was lucky to have escaped with a draw in their first fight, scored an unexpected eighth-round knockout in Melbourne, Fenech was again denied a title in a fourth weight class.

How about third-time lucky?

"The Emanuel Steward effect always gives a fighter an edge," said Top Rank matchmaker Ron Katz. "And by now, both guys have probably slipped equally, so it should be a great fight."

"Nelson says he had an injury to his left shoulder in the first fight, and Fenech was in a trance from being shot up with painkillers in the second," said Steward. "That's why I think this fight should be called 'No Excuses.'"

LISTEN UP

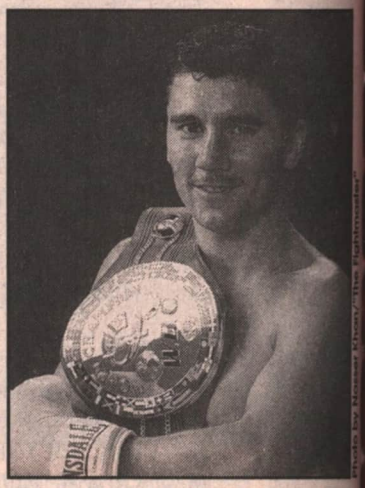


Photo by Mosser Library/The Fightmaster

McCullough: Defending on the Chavez-De La Hoya card

At Madison Square Garden on May 10, **Lennox Lewis** will square off against **Ray Mercer**, and **Evander Holyfield** will take on **Bobby Czyz**. Lewis is waiting for a shot at the WBC title, and Holyfield wants one more crack at world honors before hanging 'em up ... On the Chavez-De La Hoya undercard on June 7, WBC bantamweight champion **Wayne McCullough** will defend against former titlist **John Michael Johnson**. Also on the card, NABF junior featherweight champion **Erik Morales** will clash with **Eddie Croft**. **Shannon Briggs**, **George Scott**, and **Dana Rosenblatt** will also appear ... On April 20, WBA light heavyweight champion **Virgil Hill** will defend against New York City's **Lou Del Valle**, 20-0, in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Hill is being targeted for a showdown with **Roy Jones** ... **Roberto Duran**, headed for a battle with **Hector Camacho**, has promised to issue "The Macho Man" a beating. But judging by the 44-year-old Duran's performance against undistinguished clubfighter **Ray Domenge** in February, "Hands Of Stone" has turned into "Hands Of Silly Putty."

Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Evander Holyfield	Bobby Czyz	3-1	Two years ago, Holyfield would've been more than 20-1
Lennox Lewis	Ray Mercer	5-1	Lewis may finally be ready to reemerge as a force
Felix Trinidad	Frankie Randall	9-2	Randall biting off more than he can chew
Riddick Bowe	Alexandr Zolkin	6-1	Zolkin can beat a lot of good heavys—but Bowe isn't one of them

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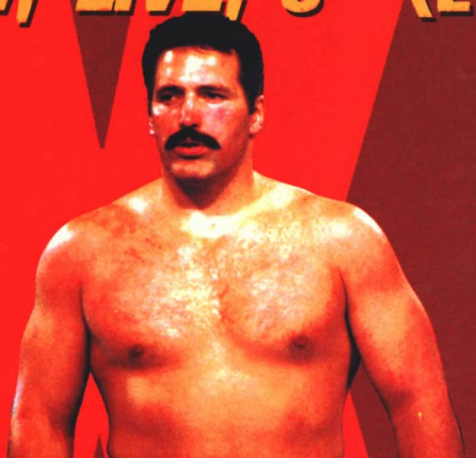

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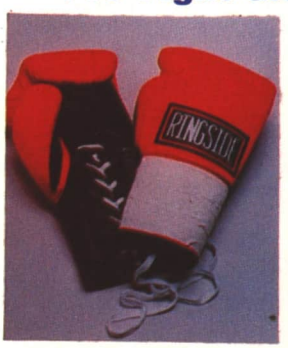

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